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OPINION METER

This week's poll:

Should the U.S. Attorney's Office take action on the Inspector General's report citing possible violations in the award of a sole-source contract to IPS to manage the CNMI's ARRA funds?

Let your voice be heard! Go to www.saipantribune.com to cast your vote.

INSIDE

Planned Attack

An AWOL soldier admits to planning an attack on Fort Hood.

NATION...Page 10

Mobile Tech

What's on top of the school supply list this year? Mobile tech.

YOUNGSTYLE...Page 18

Hunk Off

The Old Spice Guy has won his hunk-off with Fabio.

LIFE & STYLE...Page 20

Deviant Guard nabs five of 50 targeted sex offenders

RAINY DAYS HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

Motorists negotiate slippery and flooded streets on Saipan yesterday as a result of non-stop rains the past few days. The National Weather Service-Guam has also issued a high surf and small craft advisory because of swells generated by monsoon winds over the area.

» 7,000 worth of marijuana seized

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

CNMI, Guam, and federal agencies launched this month Operation Deviant Guard, a three-day compliance check targeting 50 registered sex offenders in the Commonwealth.

The operation reportedly resulted in the successful location and verification of 40 offenders, the arrest of five for non-compliance, and seizure of $7,000 worth of marijuana plants.

Department of Public Safety Commissioner Ramon Mafnas, U.S. Marshal for Districts of Guam/NMI Frank Leon Guerrero, and U.S. Marshals for the Districts of Guam/NMI senior inspector John Untalan announced the result of the operation in a news briefing yesterday at the Department of Corrections' conference room. Police officer Jason Tarkong who is also the officer-in-charge for DPS Sex Offender Registry Unit, joined the briefing with chief parole officer Joseph Guerrero.

"This initiative is the first of many operations planned for the future in an effort to protect and safeguard our com-

See DEVIANT on Page 4

WITH FEWER CASES, BLEAK ECONOMY

Initiative seeks to cut number of NMI associate judges from 4 to 3

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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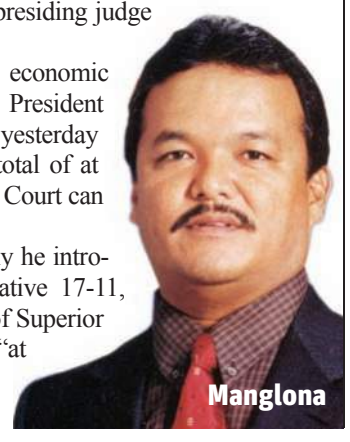
REPORTER

With fewer cases filed in court in the past several years, a cash-strapped government and an anemic economy, it may be time to revisit a constitutional provision requiring "at least" four associate judges in addition to a presiding judge in the CNMI Superior Court.

Given the CNMI's current economic and social conditions, Senate President Paul Manglona (Ind-Rota) said yesterday that the demand for having a total of at least five judges in the Superior Court can no longer be justified.

He said this is the reason why he introduced Senate Legislative Initiative 17-11, which will reduce the number of Superior Court associate judges from "at least four" to "at least three."



Manglona

See INITIATIVE on Page 4

After 102 years, Walter Reed hospital closing

By LYDIA MULVANY
MCCLATCHY NEWSPAPERS

WASHINGTON—A solemn final moment came for Walter Reed Army Medical Center on Wednesday, when Army commanders rolled up maroon and green flags, symbols of the soul of the military unit that ran the hospital, and placed them in cloth cases, never to be unfurled again.

Hundreds of soldiers and staff gathered under a white tent on a beautiful morning to observe the symbolic and funereal end of what Army Surgeon General Eric Schoomaker called "the most treasured military medical center in the world."

See REED on Page 4

Col. Peter McHugh and Sgt. Maj. Larry Lipsey encase the Walter Reed U.S. Army Garrison's flag at a ceremony Wednesday, July 27, 2011, symbolizing the closing of Walter Reed Army Medical Center. LYDIA MULVANY/MCT

Fadang photo makes the cover of major botanical journal. PAGE 5
Economy growing at slowest pace since recession. PAGE 9

Local

Man who allegedly tried to fly to US using fake papers indicted

An indictment was filed Thursday in federal court against a Chinese national who was arrested by U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement agents last week as he tried to check-in for an outbound flight to Los Angeles, California, via Narita, Japan, using allegedly fake documents.

Dongjun Li, 38, was indicted for immigration fraud and false statement or entry.

According to the indictment filed by assistant U.S. attorney Beverly R. McCallum in the U.S. District Court for the NMI, Li used a forged U.S. Department of Justice, Immigration and Naturalization Service Form I-512 on July 15, 2011, as evidence of authorized stay or employment in the U.S. It was dated May 20, 2011. The document was also accompanied by an authorization for extension of parole of alien in the U.S. dated July 11, 2011.

Li allegedly presented these forged documents when a Delta Air Lines representative asked the suspect for a visa as he was checking in at the Saipan International Airport for a trip to Los Angeles via Narita.

Li allegedly admitted having paid a private citizen over $1,000 in return for the false documents.

Li also allegedly presented to U.S. Customs and Border Protection officers at the airport a false document—a CNMI application for marriage license and a record of marriage—that contained fraudulent statements.

The document allegedly indicated that Li and Pauline Manahane were married on May 10, 2011, although he knew that they were never married.

At the July 18 detention hearing, McCallum disclosed that, according to the U.S. Probation's Office, Li had claimed to be married to a local woman, yet he could not remember her last name. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

Youth Congress seeks timely disbursement of SHEFA checks

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

The CNMI Youth Congress has passed a resolution encouraging the timely disbursement of scholarship checks to prevent the suffering of scholars here and off-island.

Youth Congress resolution 13-03 was unanimously approved by members during its July 16 session. It was authored by youth senator Audrey Joy Ada.

The legislation, which was also tackled during yesterday's meeting of the Saipan Higher Education Financial Assistance board, wants SHEFA and the Finance Department to assure scholars of the timely disbursement of financial awards.

"Many Saipan students rely on financial aid, including SHEFA, which is essential to paying for costs associated with pursuing a higher education, including tuition and living expenses. The unfortunate delay in scholarship disbursements creates an unfortunate barrier to many of the Saipan students, including the inability to purchase books, to clear tuition fees, and to complete enrollment for the next term," the resolution states.

SHEFA aided over 400 students in spring 2011 and has received hundreds of applications for the upcoming fall semester.

SHEFA administrator Henry Hofschneider and board chair Jose Mafnas told *Saipan Tribune* yesterday that Finance has yet to give them a schedule of the next disbursement of checks.

They disclosed that a total of $149,700 in financial assistance is still pending at Finance, mostly for spring 2011 recipients.

Hofschneider reported that $28,000 worth of checks was requested on April 20, followed by $15,200 worth of checks requested on May 24, both for spring 2011 scholars. Another $13,200 worth of checks are pending at Finance for fall 2010 recipients. On June 10, another list of $92,300 check assistance was requested, followed by a $1,000 check request submitted on June 16.

Hofschneider said that calls are still being received from scholars and parents, pleading for the immediate disbursement of these awards.

He also reported that SHEFA received a total of 710 applications as of yesterday. He estimates that close to 500 applicants may be found eligible for financial awards based on their initial assessment. Hofschneider said the number is still subject to change as review of the applications progresses.

Woman hurt after husband allegedly stabbed, beat her

Frustrated over the alleged laziness of her common-law husband, a woman tried to hit him with a stick but instead was allegedly beaten and stabbed with a knife at their residence in Kannat Tabla Wednesday night.

The woman sustained a cut on her right wrist. Medics treated her but she refused to be brought to the hospital, police said.

Jeffrey Taimanao Deleon Guerrero, 36, was arrested for assault with a dangerous weapon, assault and battery, and disturbing the peace. His bail was initially set at $6,250 cash. He was set to appear in the Superior Court yesterday afternoon.

Detective Peter A. Aldan stated in his report that, according to the victim, she was frustrated because all Deleon Guerrero does is sleep and eat.

On Wednesday night, the wife tried to wake Deleon Guerrero up, either to help her with household chores or attend to their children. She tried to hit him with a stick but missed. He got up, chased her, and allegedly punched her in the head and slapped her several times.

Deleon Guerrero then allegedly grabbed a knife and stabbed her but she blocked the weapon, resulting in the wound on her right wrist. The victim ran to Terry Store where she called police.

When a responding police officer asked Deleon Guerrero what happened, the suspect reportedly told the officer that she's lucky that he did not kill her. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

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SHEFA chair is new expenditure authority of scholarship funds

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

The board chair of the Saipan Higher Education Financial Assistance has been designated as the expenditure authority of all the funds appropriated for SHEFA, based on a new law signed by acting governor Eloy S. Inos.

Saipan Local Law 17-9 authorized the appropriation of Saipan poker and pachinko license fees. Of the total appropriation of $3.454 million this fiscal year, $3 million goes to SHEFA and $100,000 to its operations account. The rest are for other projects and programs.

Previous appropriation laws designated the Finance secretary as expenditure authority for SHEFA funds.

SHEFA administrator Henry Hofschneider told the board yesterday that there are some restrictions on the expenditure of funds, including the concurrence of the board chair before any funds are spent. It also prohibits using the funds for expenses related to legal fees and representation.

"This provision basically means that SHEFA is not permitted to hire a consultant, an external auditor [to audit the financials of the program] or even an attorney during the period of the appropriation, to provide assistance on legal issues or consultancy services to improve SHEFA rules and regulations or policies," said Hofschneider during the meeting held at the Saipan Mayor's Office.

SHEFA spent over $396,000 for consultants and professional services since the program's inception in 2004 up to 2010. These professional services were mainly fees paid to former consultants. Other items included under professional services were legal opinions sought by the management in previous years.

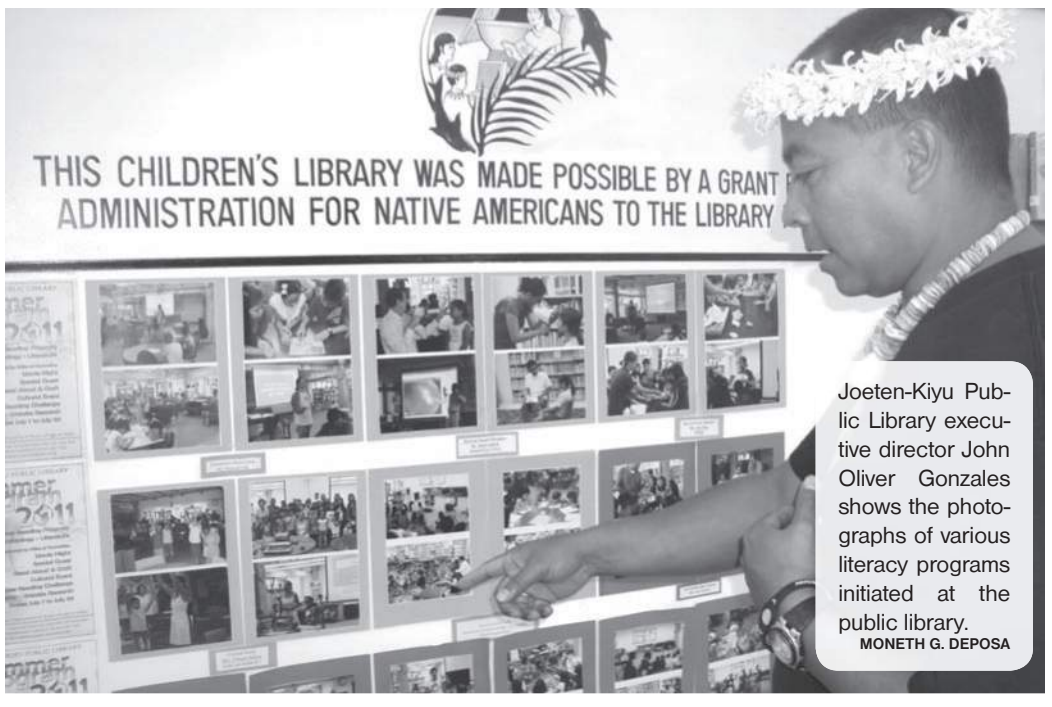
Hofschneider said they need to clarify with the Finance secretary, the Office of Management and Budget, and chairman of the local delegation on the effective date of Saipan Local Law 17-9.

He explained that the funds appropriated by the new law are not subject to fiscal year limitations.

"While it protects the appropriated funds from fiscal year limitation, it is unclear if such mandate also requires that expenditure of the funds follow the government's fiscal year period. If it does, then when does SLL 17-9 fiscal year begins and ends is the question that needs to be answered," said Hofschneider.

Each fiscal year, the Legislature allocates $3 million for SHEFA scholars, using revenue from poker fees. Recipients are expected to return to the island to work in either the government or private sectors.

Library gets $68K for cultural literacy, $200K for roof repairs



Joeten-Kiyu Public Library executive director John Oliver Gonzales shows the photographs of various literacy programs initiated at the public library.
MONETH G. DEPOSA

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

Joeten-Kiyu Public Library will launch a new program to promote and enhance cultural literacy among the youth after it received a $68,400 grant, according to executive director John Oliver Gonzales.

He added the facility's dilapidated roofs will also be repaired using a $200,000 grant awarded by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development.

The $68,400 grant was awarded under the Department of Public Health's Community Guidance Center's Project Brabu, which applied and received funding from the federal government.

Dubbed as Project CLAP, or Just Keeping People Literate through Cultural Literacy After-School Programs, it aims to provide literacy outreach services in key population centers throughout the islands. Its target population—the children and youth population throughout the CNMI—will have an opportunity to learn an array of skills and knowledge from programs and activities that will be offered by partner organizations such as the arts council, sports associations, and various groups that will specifically enhance cultural skills and interests.

According to Gonzales, majority of youth remain highly exposed and at-risk to juvenile delinquency due to lack of or no consistent and meaningful after-school programs that would offer them more real, tangible opportunities to become productive and engaged.

Within the year, Gonzales also said that the public library's roofing will undergo repair and replacement, thanks to the HUD grant. He said they applied for the funding last fiscal year and the actual drawdown will happen this year. He said an RFP for the competitive bidding is being finalized and will soon be announced.

"Our goal is to work with the selected contractor to retrofit our entire roofing and integrate it with some solar panels to augment our energy conservation measures, of course within the available budget," Gonzales told *Saipan Tribune.*

Since the library was built in 1991, its roofs have never been repaired or replaced.

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Non-critical employees get paid on time

For only at least the second time this year, non-critical government employees got paid on time yesterday.

Finance Secretary Larrisa Larson said they ran the payroll "just before the close of business [Friday] for non-critical employees."

But early yesterday afternoon, there was still no telling whether these non-critical employees will have their 18th delayed payroll since June 2010 because of continued limited cash in government bank accounts and other obligations that need to be met first including hospital and utilities needs.

Besides limited cash collections, the government also had to deal with three pay periods in July.

Were it not for the end-of-the-month business gross revenue tax payment, the government wasn't supposed to make timely payroll for non-critical employees.

These employees usually receive their paychecks on the Wednesday right after their supposed Friday payday.

Most of the employees subjected to delayed payrolls are also dealing with a 16-hour work cut biweekly and unpaid holidays as part of the Fitial administration's cost cutting measures.

Only critical government employees such as doctors, nurses, firefighters and corrections officers, as well as federal-funded employees are being paid on time. ***(Haidee V. Eugenio)***

DPL seeks public comment on COP's proposed 15-year land lease extension

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

The Department of Public Lands intends to recommend to the Legislature to grant Coral Ocean Point's proposed 15-year extension of its land lease, but DPL secretary Oscar M. Babauta said yesterday they will wait for the end of the public comment period on Aug. 10 before making a decision to endorse such extension.

The final decision to grant Coral Ocean Point's proposed lease extension lies not with DPL but with the Legislature.

However, DPL's recommendation is needed before such an extension is even brought to the Legislature for consideration.

"We are currently reviewing Coral Ocean Point's submission. Part of the review is the public comment period which ends on Aug. 10," Babauta told *Saipan Tribune.*

Suwaso Corp., which owns and operates Coral Ocean Point in Unai Dangkulu near the Saipan international airport, is proposing a 15-year extension to its 25-year lease, which is expiring in August 2011.

Even before DPL's public comment period expires, the Senate had already adopted on Thursday a resolution asking DPL to work with Coral Ocean Point "on a reasonable public land lease extension."

DPL has put out a public notice in the newspaper on Suwaso Corp.'s proposed lease extension involving Lot No. 011 L 01 in an area measuring 735,023 square meters for Coral Ocean Point.

Copies of the location of the parcel and the proposed lease extension agreements are available at the DPL office for inspection.

The lessee, Suwaso Corp., is a CNMI corporation whose board of directors consists of Yusuke Fumoto, Vincent DLG. Torres, and Philip Mendiola-Long. Fumoto is also the president and treasurer of the corporation, while Torres is the vice president, and Mendiola-Long is the secretary.

DPL will be accepting public comments on the proposed lease extension up to Aug. 10.

$42 million revitalization plan

Suwaso Corp., purchased by new owners this month, has prepared a "Coral Ocean Point Golf Revitalization Plan" which includes a $15 million investment to build 200 additional hotel rooms and to renovate and upgrade existing golf resort facilities and golf courses plus a $7 million investment for operational funding for a total of $22 million in investments for Phase I.

Phase II of the revitalization plan will cost $20 million.

This includes $4 million for alternative energy to convert the hotel and golf course to the use of solar and wind power, $10 million to build a convention center and outdoor city street, and $6 million to renovate and transform the hotel spa and pool into a 6-star spa management.

Coral Ocean Point currently employs 57 people. But the revitalization plan includes creating 180 new jobs.

It also commits to funding indigenous art programs, education programs and social programs.

REED

From Page 1

The 102-year-old institution, which treated soldiers and presidents on its manicured redbrick campus, is due to close in September. Its operations are moving to the new Walter Reed National Military Medical Center in Bethesda, Md., where another military unit will take over, and the new Fort Belvoir Community Hospital in Virginia, while the State Department and the District of Columbia are taking over its storied grounds.

"There's a general sense of sadness ... the same emotions anyone would feel when you close your home and move someplace else," said Col. Norvell Coots, the commander of the Walter Reed Health Care System.

Wednesday's festivities—Army parachutists dropped from the sky, drawing cheers—were a stark contrast to Walter Reed's humble beginnings. At its founding in 1909, 10 patients were brought over from the old Washington Barracks hospital, now Fort McNair, and the hospital opened quietly.

"There was no ceremony, no fanfare, no nothing," said Sherman Fleek, the command historian at the U.S. Military Academy at West Point. "Now we're having some fanfare and recognition, and it's wonderful."

Fleek said that Walter Reed—named for the military physician who discovered that mosquitoes transmitted yellow fever—was revolutionary in that it brought together a medical hospital, a research facility, the Army medical museum and the Army research library. It opened with 80 beds, a number that grew to 2,500 during World War I. Today, it spans 72 buildings over 113 acres.

Over the last century, the famous and powerful have come to Walter Reed. It's a tradition for presidents to visit wounded soldiers. Winston Churchill and other foreign heads of state were treated there. Presidents Harry S. Truman, Dwight D. Eisenhower and Richard Nixon were patients, as were Gens. Douglas MacArthur and John Pershing.

Bob Hope was a regular visitor for four decades, and Oprah Winfrey dropped by recently.

The campus was also the site of a brief Civil War battle in 1864, and a marker lies where Confederate sharpshooters climbed a tulip tree and almost killed President Abraham Lincoln. Historians say the sharpshooters hit a surgeon next to Lincoln, prompting a Union officer—as legend has it, the future Supreme Court Justice Oliver Wendell Holmes—to call Lincoln a "damned fool" and urge him to take cover.

Hundreds of thousands of soldiers have been treated at Walter Reed.

For Army Secretary John McHugh, a warrior ethos pulsed through the hallways, and soldiers rejected defeat even from their hospital beds. McHugh said he used to worry about how to cheer up wounded soldiers before a visit.

"In truth, each time after each visit, it's they that do the lifting," he said at the ceremony. "Their courage, their strength, is an incredible source of inspiration."

Col. Lorraine Fritz, the deputy commander for nursing, said the center was iconic for the Army. For Army doctors and nurses, she said, serving at Walter Reed is a goal.

Sgt. Shaun Tichenor came to the ceremony with his wife and three children. The Minnesota native was admitted to Walter Reed in June after he lost his right leg in an explosion in Afghanistan. Doctors fitted him with a prosthetic leg, and said he should be running in five months.

DEVIANT

From Page 1

munity and most especially the safety of our children in the community," Mafnas said.

Tarkong said that information gathered during the operation determined that one targeted offender had been deported to the Philippines and another was deported to Palau.

Tarkong said three other offenders are subject to ongoing criminal investigations as they are believed to be in various locations in the continental U.S. and Hawaii.

Tarkong said the task force also found marijuana plants in various residences around Saipan. "The marijuana plants were seized, processed as evidence, and turned over to narcotics officers for follow-up investigations," he said.

Of the 50 targets, Tarkong said that three are on Rota and three are on Tinian.

Mafnas expressed gratitude to the U.S. Marshals Service and all other agencies that took part in the operation. Other agencies involved were the CNMI Board of Parole, CNMI Office of Adult Probation, Guam Police Department, Judiciary of Guam Marshals Division, and Guam Department of Corrections.

Mafnas said the efforts of these law enforcement professionals were instrumental in the successful execution of the operation.

"This is why this multi-agency is extremely important. It's not possible to accomplish this task without…outside assistance," said Mafnas.

Only two personnel are assigned to the Sex Offender Registry.

Under local and federal laws, any person convicted of a sexual crime is required to register as a sex offender.

Tarkong said there are 134 registered sex offenders in the CNMI but some of them are no longer required to register after meeting the 10-year requirement. Some are off island, some are deceased, and others are in prison.

Guam U.S. Marshals senior inspector John Untalan said there are 400 registered sex offenders in Guam. Untalan, who is the coordinator for the Guam Sex Offender Registry, said that they targeted 150 offenders in February.

Untalan said they are thankful to DPS and other agencies for allowing the U.S. Marshals Service to come and help the Sex Offender Registry here.

"It's an excellent relationship between two islands [Guam and the CNMI] working collaboratively to make sure the Sex Offender Registry is in compliance with the required mandate of law," Untalan said.

Leon Guerrero said the U.S. Marshals and local law enforcement agencies pooled their resources and investigative capabilities in a joint effort to make this operation very successful.

INITIATIVE

From Page 1

"I believe this is a good proposal that should be put before voters in the next general election," Manglona told *Saipan Tribune.*

By cutting down the number of judges, he said the court will realize savings from not having to hire a full staff nor spend money on the operation of one court room.

SLI 17-11 proposes to amend Article IV, Section 2 of the NMI Constitution from "at least four associate judges" to "at least three associate judges."

Once passed by three-fourths of members of each chamber, the proposed constitutional amendment will be placed on the ballot for voters' ratification in the next general election.

While some lawmakers asked yesterday, including House minority leader Joseph Deleon Guerrero (R-Saipan) and Senate Vice President Jude Hofschneider (R-Tinian), said they would like to read a copy of Manglona's initiative first before commenting on its merits, others like Rep. Ray Tebuteb (R-Saipan) expressed strong support for the proposal.

Tebuteb said it's only logical to reduce the number of associate judges.

The chairman of the Saipan and Northern Islands Legislative Delegation also said there's a need to revisit the number of lawmakers. An initiative reducing the number of Saipan legislators is still under committee review, months after its introduction.

'Right to a speedy trial'

Floor leader George Camacho (Ind-Saipan), for his part, asked whether there's really fewer cases filed in the Superior Court, citing what he heard about a backlog of cases, including those pending from the Office of the Attorney General.

Manglona, in his initiative's findings, cited 12,235 cases filed in the Superior Court in 2000, which dropped significantly to only 5,630 in 2007.

The Senate president said the big drop in the number of cases filed was a result of a declining population.

"Accordingly, the Judiciary can afford to have one less judge in the Superior Court," the initiative says.

Camacho said while this is a significant decline in the number of cases filed, based on data gathered by the initiative's author, he said he will need to seek comments from the courts, the OAG, the Public Defender's Office and some private attorneys "to see if there's no backlog of cases before I could cast my vote on the measure."

The House floor leader said he will support cost-cutting measures "but not if it will impede on justice."

"Justice for the defendant and the CNMI people, including the right to a speedy trial," he added.

'Sitting judges'

Manglona, one of the longest serving lawmakers in the CNMI, said his SLI 17-11, once passed, is not to eliminate a current sitting judge.

The CNMI has one presiding judge and four associate judges in the Superior Court.

Manglona said if his initiative is approved, the governor will either not nominate an individual to fill the vacancy created or if a Superior Court judge's retention election happens first, the judge will not be retained.

He also said by leaving the language "at least" in the Constitution, the government will be able to return to five judges if at a later date it is found to be necessary and within the CNMI's budget.

The Senate president pre-filed his initiative on the eve of the U.S. Senate's confirmation on July 26 of Superior Court associate judge Ramona Villagomez Manglona as a judge for the U.S. District Court for the NMI.

Judge Manglona is expected to soon resign from her post in the CNMI Superior Court after her confirmation to serve on the U.S. District Court for the NMI.

Superior Court presiding judge Robert C. Naraja already issued a case assignment order that distributed among the judges all the 170 cases presently being handled by Judge Manglona.

The list shows how these 170 cases will be distributed among Naraja and associate judges David A. Wiseman, Kenneth L. Govendo, and Perry B. Inos.

Upon Judge Manglona's resignation, there will be one vacancy in the Superior Court.

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial, who has been off island for more than three weeks, earlier said he has some names for possible replacements for Manglona once she's confirmed by the U.S. Senate.

Late yesterday afternoon, the Senate clerk's office issued notices rescheduling an Aug. 4 Senate session to Aug. 3 at 10am on Saipan.

The Senate president's initiative is on the session agenda's bill calendar.

Fadang photo makes cover of major botanical journal

The research efforts of University of Guam scientist Thomas Marler have put Guam's endangered native cycad, *Cycas micronesica (fadang* is the Chamorro name) on the cover of the June 2011 *International Journal of Plant Sciences*. Published by the University of Chicago Press, IJPS is an important source for researchers looking for new and dynamic articles in the field of botany.

In this recently published article, Marler and Cornell University botanist Karl Niklas compared Guam cycads growing in different habitats to examine the influence of the environment on reproductive success. Their methods were designed to more fully understand the role of wind during the events that lead to seed production.

"We were able to quantitatively demonstrate that cycads growing in locations exposed to trade winds and salt air on Guam's east coast produced fewer seeds and were less robust than plants growing on the protected west side of the island," says Marler. "We used these results to convey the need to include multiple locations whenever conducting research on rare and endangered species."

The research also informed the ongoing desire to determine the role of insects versus wind for pollination of *fadang*. The results indicated these ancient plants more likely rely on the help of insects rather than wind for pollination. These answers to critical questions are invaluable for developing a plan to conserve the species.

A scientist with the Western Pacific Tropical Research Center, Marler's long-term research on *fadang* is more crucial than ever considering its future is in jeopardy due to damage by several invasive insects. The data used in this study were collected in 2004, which was the year of the last major reproductive event before the insects began killing *fadang* plants. *Cycas micronesica* went from being the most abundant tree on Guam in 2002 to endangered status in 2006, according to the International Union for Conservation of Nature & Natural Resources.

The beauty and symmetry of *Cycas micronesica* make it a worthy photographic and research subject, as Guam forests would lose an important species if the invasive insects continue to go unchecked. The important work of Marler and other scientists on Guam's native plants and animals is invaluable for the future health of island ecosystems.

Find more information on Thomas Marler's research at www.wptrc.org. ***(UOG)***

THOMAS MARLER

The endangered *Cycas micronesica* produces a photogenic female reproductive structure.

Navy to conduct training on FDM

SANTA RITA, Guam—The U.S. Navy will conduct training on the island of Farallon de Medinilla on Aug. 2-4 from 5am to 3pm.

The public, especially fisherman, commercial pilots and marine tour operators, are advised to stay clear from the area during the times and dates indicated.

The general location of the training on the island of Farallon de Medinilla training area will be on a 10 nautical mile radius on all quadrants. Farallon de Medinilla plays a special and unique role in national defense because its location provides access frequency that supports established training requirements. In addition, the air and sea space in the Farallon provides sufficient room for the many different attack profiles necessary to replicate training opportunities in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. ***(USN)***

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
Coastal Resources Management
Caller Box 10007, Springs Plaza
Middle Road, Saipan, MP 96950
Website: www.crm.gov.mp
Tel. (670) 664-8300 • Fax (670) 664-8315

NOTICE OF MEETING OF THE CRM AGENCY OFFICIALS

Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, Section 11, Governor Benigno R. Fitial and Lt. Governor Eloy S. Inos through the Coastal Resources Management Office (CRMO) hereby give notice that a CRM Agency Officials Meeting will be held on Wednesday, August 03, 2011, at 2:00 pm at the CRM Conference Room, Springs Plaza, Middle Road, Saipan.

AGENDA

I. PRELIMINARY MATTERS
- a) Call to Order
- b) Roll Call

II. PERMIT APPLICATION

West San Jose Homestead – CRM Permit no. TMS-2002-X-219
- a. Request for Permit Amendment
- b. Discussion by CRM Agencies/CRMO
- c. Permit Status (CRMO/CRM Agencies)

Finafa Residential Subdivision - CRM Permit Application. No. RMS-2011-X-041
- a) Revised Permit Application and EA
- b) Discussion by CRM Agencies/CRMO
- c) Permit Status

III. PRE-APPLICTION
- a) MBI Warehouse

IV. OTHER MATTERS

V. ADJOURNMENT

All interested persons are welcome to attend and to submit written or oral testimony on the above agenda items. (Note: Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, Section 13(a)(7) and Section 13(c), the Board may vote to meet in executive session.)

RITA C. CHONG - DELACRUZ
Administrator

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Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
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MEMBER
The Associated Press Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL

No more encouragement of North Korea's threats

(c) 2011, The Kansas City Star

North Korea has been milking its nuclear program for food and other aid for 20 years. Now the nation is at it again. The State Department says officials will meet soon with a North Korean official to explore whether to restart the multilateral talks that fell apart in 2009.

Secretary of State Hillary Clinton says the meeting is aimed at determining whether Pyongyang is serious about living up to its obligations under previous agreements.

That shouldn't be hard to determine. North Korea's performance over the years has turned its credibility into a cartoon.

Start with the "Agreed Framework" of 1994, under which it promised to freeze its nuclear program. The regime complied, but then started up another nuke program in secret. The long-established pattern is that the North Koreans threaten another nuclear test or provocation to win more aid. Much of the time this has worked.

This year, the food shortages are especially acute, which means Washington and South Korea should be prepared for more provocative actions. That would mean more nuclear tests and more sudden attacks like those of the last year or so, such as the unprovoked sinking of a South Korean warship and the shelling of a South Korean island.

Clinton set the right tone when she warned, "We will not give them anything new for actions they have already agreed to take." The lesson of the last 20 years is that giving aid in response to threats only encourages more threats.

Honoring those who stood against torture

(c) 2011, Los Angeles Times

The American Civil Liberties Union and other organizations have called on President Obama to honor military personnel and civilians who opposed the use of torture in the war on terror. We would support such a gesture by the president, though we consider it unlikely given how often he has said that he wants to "look forward, not backward" regarding abuses committed during the George W. Bush administration.

Fortunately, it doesn't take the president to shed light on the identities of government employees who balked at or questioned the Bush policies. The ACLU itself has played a valuable role in publicizing the actions of people like Joseph Darby, an Army reservist and whistle-blower who turned over Abu Ghraib abuse photos to Army investigators, and former Navy General Counsel Alberto Mora, who led an effort inside the Department of Defense to oppose Justice Department legal opinions condoning coercive interrogation methods.

Much has been written about how human and normal it is to follow orders; the less-mentioned corollary is that it is difficult to buck authority, to risk disapprobation and backlash to do the right thing. That's what brave people like Darby and Mora did. Throughout the government, there were men and women who refused to participate in officially sanctioned torture, who reported abuses and coercion to their superiors or who rejected practices they believed to be immoral or illegal.

BANK LOAN OFFICER
©2011 THE AUGUSTA CHRONICLE 7/28
"GOOD NEWS! YOU CAN LOAN ME SOME MONEY NOW 'CAUSE I'VE RAISED MY DEBT CEILING BY A TRILLION DOLLARS!"

Liuliu

By JAIME VERGARA
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Vergara is a regular contributor to the Saipan Tribune*'s Opinion Section.*

I wanted to title this reflection, "life and death in the erotic embrace," but that may raise eyebrows so we focus on our reaching double-six in time, or, some way of seeing this as a completion given that when I was growing up, the relative life expectancy of the Filipino male was 56. *Liuliu* has other meanings in *Putonghua (*aka *Guoyu* and *Mandarin* in Taiwan and HK, and China before 1949); the language spells a word similarly four times but in four tones, thereby, having different meanings.

Folks may be curious why Chinese and Koreans seem enamored with the number "8" in telephone numbers and car tags. Eight is pronounced *ba* while the word for prosperity *fa* is phonetically close, thus, a string of "eights" generally means a good number.

Double six is the same. The word *liuliudashan* also means business savvy, sophistication and smoothness in manners and conduct, particularly in social relationships. *Liuliu* also refers to movement of water, from the ferocity of rapids to the timeless meandering of river flow downstream. Then there is the movement toward adventure, to leave the security of home as when a young one finally grows up to forsake the comfort of parental nest and strike out on one's own. This is not just moving out to a dorm in college. Many *Pinoys* in my time got on an ocean liner or airplane headed halfway around the world to start anew, and for some, never looking back except remit earnings to loved ones.

We hit the double-six on the Gregorian calendar this Monday. We were two days past a score when we boarded an APL from Manila to San Francisco on the Cleveland. My folks were in Northern Luzon at the time, and Papa sent Mama to see me off; had my UP Law student buddy close to the plank as well. I would have joined him in Civil Law and the Philippine Bar Association as I had originally intended but got derailed by the challenge of Canon Law, a study more extensive for it went beyond Constitutional Law and traditions of *liberté, egalité, fraternité*. We charted instead the various threads from the Code of Hammurabi in Mesopotamia, Aegean ethics and Roman jurisprudence, European renaissance, Marx and Engels, Nietzche and Hegel, American Exceptionalism and global existentialism, and now, Obama's practical and legal maneuvers for change.

Downside to some was foregoing the wealth of a politician (my mother's family traces a long line of politicos and they are not wanting of real estate), or corporation law (buddy and cousins have impressive mahogany paneled offices), rather than the monastic mendicancy we appropriated, which is a source of filial embarrassment and apology.

But this reflection is not about my personal circumstances. It is about the affirmation of birth, which is celebrated on the 66th annual culmination of mine. Culmination is the operative word. The celebration of birth is not separate from the affirmation of its completion. The journey into life is simultaneously the journey into death. "To die, to sleep..." was Will's poetry. The Torah had a seven-day cycle and now we know that our blood is replenished anew on a 7-day cycle. The Levant gave us the 28-day lunar cycle, and the Egyptians, the 365-day solar year. Human life is one unique unrepeatable journey of existence, and the human psyche had been ingenious in giving it mindful cycles from start to finish. We die as we live, we live as we die!

This may very well be apocryphal but a Jesuit acquaintance narrated it long ago. Pope John XXIII reportedly told of the story of a prominent Pope going to heaven bedecked in his signature purple robe, and upon meeting simple Peter, regaled him of all the deeds and accomplishments he achieved while being the head of the Vatican See.

After the litany of awards and honored distinctions, Peter asked: "Yes, we know you were an active Pope, but were you *Angelo Giuseppe Roncalli?"* Giovanni XXIII bolted out of bed, realizing that his dream was not about regal Pope Pius XII but about him. His only accountability, and the final one, is whether he was faithful of being the creature that he was created to be, and that meant, the freedom to create and recreate himself, *creatio ex nihilo* (out of nothing), every step of the way.

"Just be it" is my slogan to paraphrase Nike's. There is no justification or rationalization for living. Showing up and completing creatureliness is my covenant of finitude. It is the "jazz of my life." The liturgical phrase is alpha-omega: "to die is to live." This is not about belief. This is a statement about life in any orientation. For as long as one hangs on to any illusion, or construct of mind, we do not live. We are captive of idolatry. The ecstasy of hallelujah is a choice, and birthdays have a way of reminding us that in our nakedness, we are mysteriously sustained as we hang over the abyss.

So *Liuliu* is not just about moving, it is most profoundly moving out of the comfort and security of the familiar, of our treasured idolatry. Monday morning, will be the first day of our 67th year, and when the witching hour strikes, we physically bid Saipan, *adieu!*

EDITORIAL POLICY Letters to the editor must include the name, address, and contact number of the contributor. Letters that are critical in nature should focus on issues, not personalities. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Seeds of terror in Norway

By ANDREW GUMBEL
LOS ANGELES TIMES

America's violent far right would have no difficulty recognizing the tell-tale signatures of Friday's killing spree in Norway—and not just because they would see the confessed perpetrator, Anders Behring Breivik, as an ideological soul mate who, like their own heroes, thought he could trigger a white-supremacist revolution with bombs and bullets.

Breivik appears to have been more than simply inspired by American predecessors such as Timothy McVeigh, the Oklahoma City bomber: The materials he used, the way he planned and carried out his attacks, and his own writings all suggest he was deeply familiar with the actions of some notorious political killers on this side of the Atlantic.

Breivik possessed a Glock semiautomatic, the same weapon McVeigh was carrying when he was arrested by a hawk-eyed Highway Patrol officer 90 minutes after the April 1995 bombing in Oklahoma. Breivik also possessed a .223-caliber Ruger assault rifle, just like McVeigh.

The Ruger, in fact, has a long history of use by violent extremists because it is dependable, easy to load and fire, and cheaper than an AR-15 or M-16. It is also convertible, without much difficulty, to a fully automatic weapon.

Gordon Kahl, an iconic white-supremacist tax protester, was armed with a Ruger Mini-14—the same model as Breivik's—when he led the FBI on a multi-state shooting spree from North Dakota to Arkansas in 1983. Richard Wayne Snell, a protege of Kahl's, was carrying a Mini-14 when he killed the only black trooper in southwestern Arkansas in 1984 and then battled it out with police across the state line in Oklahoma.

Snell, who was part of a violent revolutionary group known as the Covenant, the Sword and the Arm of the Lord, was a hero of McVeigh's who was executed in Arkansas on the very day of the Oklahoma City bombing: April 19, 1995.

Breivik acquired about 12,000 pounds of ammonium nitrate and, according to the Norwegian police, appears to have used some of it to make the bomb that detonated in Oslo. That's the same farm fertilizer compound McVeigh and his co-conspirator Terry Nichols acquired to build their bomb. They mixed about 4,000 pounds of the fertilizer with nitromethane and diesel fuel to construct a device powerful enough to rip the guts out of the Oklahoma City federal building and kill 168 people.

Such similarities of weaponry and methods are common among hard-right revolutionaries who tend to read the same pamphlets and books and frequent the same websites. The literature they share tends to fetishize military hardware and to speak reverently of the history of each piece of weaponry.

Perpetrators are often fairly explicit about their inspirations, which they draw both from real life and from pop culture. McVeigh, for example, likened the attack on the Alfred P. Murrah Federal Building in Oklahoma City to the destruction of the Death Star in "Star Wars."

The far-right extremist world is replete with paranoia and fear of government informants, leading to a philosophy of action that Breivik and McVeigh appear to have shared. In America in the 1990s, the approach was known as "leaderless resistance"—the notion that everyone shares a common ideological goal but that individual warriors make their own plans in secret to minimize the broader movement's risk of exposure. People might work in cells or alone, but the idea—not always observed in practice—is to keep action plans strictly under wraps.

Breivik's lawyer says his client has told him about other cells in Norway and elsewhere in Europe that are devoted to fighting back against what he sees as a Muslim invasion of the continent. But he also claims to have carried out Friday's attacks alone, suggesting that he too embraced a leaderless resistance model, real or imagined.

Norway in 2011 might bear some superficial similarities to Oklahoma in 1995. Both were regarded as peaceful, safe places that were unlikely targets for terrorist attacks. But there were also differences. Breivik discusses in his 1,500-page Unabomber-style manifesto how much more difficult it was for him to assemble bomb materials than it was in the America of the mid-1990s. "Times are changing and the possibilities which were available to us during the time of Mr. Timothy McVeigh are no longer present," he wrote.

Norway also has much stricter gun control laws than the United States, and part of the reason Breivik settled on the Ruger Mini-14 was because, as he wrote, it was "the most army-like rifle allowed in Norway."

The Oklahoma City bombing was ultimately viewed as an operational disaster by the radical far right in this country because the death toll of innocents—including 19 children under age 5—caused only revulsion and effectively squashed the American militia movement. Breivik's grand murderous folly is likely to generate that same kind of disgust.

Andrew Gumbel, a Los Angeles-based journalist, is writing a book about the Oklahoma City bombing, due out from William Morrow next April. He wrote this for the Los Angeles Times.

People everywhere fed up with politicians

By FRIDA GHITIS
THE MIAMI HERALD

People have run out of patience with the government. Chat with someone in the street, at a party or a restaurant, anywhere, and you hear the same complaint rising from a grimacing face: We're fed up; had more than enough of irresponsible, unreliable, dishonest, self-serving officials in government.

And where does this growing exasperation with the country's political leaders prevail? Everywhere. The sense of disenchantment and frustration has settled into the solar plexus of everyday people from Washington to Westminster, from Tahrir Square to Topeka, Kan.

We may just be living through one of those stages of history where the people start dismantling an old era and begin the construction of a new one.

We won't know for some time whether new ideas and ways succeed in overtaking the old, but it is clear that a global political crisis is underway. The spectacle of debt talks in Washington, the hacking scandal in Britain, and the popular uprisings in the Arab world may seem unrelated, but beneath each of them lies a sense of rage at governments that cannot be trusted.

In the United Stated, the country's top leaders, wrangling over a legitimate decision about how much money the government should spend, have seemed more concerned with their own political standing than with the risk of creating, knowingly, an avoidable catastrophe for the nation and for its people. The efforts of pollsters and pundits to measure whether the president or congressional Republicans would emerge the winners in the contest showed the cold calculus in the manufactured crisis.

In Britain, the toxic fumes of the News Corp phone hacking scandal refuse to dissipate not just because of outrage about the media's egregious violation of privacy, but because its cloud casts a bright, ugly glow on the relationship among top government officials, police and influential media organizations. It confirmed suspicions that politicians have bowed to the wishes of powerful media figures to help them stay in power. And that police have set aside investigations in order to please media masters. It's not just about the media tycoon Rupert Murdoch but, as in the debt ceiling negotiations, it's about individuals sacrificing the greater good for personal gain. It's about a political system failing a test of integrity and competence.

Even the horrific mass murder in Norway, a right-wing terrorist attack, betrays a failure of the political establishment in Europe to address an issue that has preoccupied large numbers of their citizens. The leaders of major traditional parties have been afraid to openly and effectively discuss the anxieties many people feel over mass immigration from Africa and the Middle East.

As a result, the field has been ceded to extremist politicians, who have often shaped their arguments in inflammatory terms. None of them is directly responsible for the actions of one man. But the massacres show how the topic will force its way on the agenda, no matter how much politicians try to dodge it. So far, the political system and mainstream politicians have failed miserably in dealing with the uncomfortable issue, hoping it will disappear if they ignore it or deflect it by mumbling platitudes.

In the Middle East, the revolts target dictatorships, so they might seem like completely unrelated to what is happening in the West. But many of the same forces at work in the U.S., Europe and elsewhere are at work there: people who have had enough of their corrupt and ineffective governments, moved by growing frustration and mobilized with the help of new technology.

That new technology may, in fact, be part of the problem in the West, where the Internet provides the echo chambers that breed intransigence. Everyone jumps on the web or on their favorite cable channel to hear their own ideas repeated and validated; to hear differing views vilified and ridiculed. It's an environment that makes compromise increasingly difficult.

The polarizing changes in technology have converged with the after-effects of a global financial crisis now forcing belt tightening around the world. Politicians, facing tough decisions, fail to impress.

It's no wonder the ratings of Congress and the president are sliding. It's no wonder that neither of the main political parties managed to garner a majority in Britain's last election, that no coalition in the Netherlands was able to put together a parliamentary majority, that protests have broken out in European cities.

People everywhere, fed up, want competent and reliable leaders. The people, as angry crowds have chanted in so many places, demand change.

Frida Ghitis writes about global affairs for The Miami Herald. *Readers may send her email at fjghitis@gmail.com.*

Casualties of the digital age of information

By DANIEL AKST
NEWSDAY

It's hard to resist contrasting the liquidation of the Borders bookstore chain, which commenced this week, with the latest outburst of worry over the fate of the U.S. Postal Service.

Both Borders and the Postal Service are basically broke, and both are victims of a technological revolution that increasingly delivers information digitally. So Borders went bankrupt and has launched a going-out-of-business sale. It will have some bargains, but I won't be stopping in, since I read almost everything nowadays on-screen.

Eventually, you will too.

But while the Postal Service is also in bad shape, as an arm of the government it must soldier on, trudging toward an anticipated loss of $8 billion this year on top of a similar loss last year. Of course if the Postal Service could act more like a business — by closing money-losing offices, ending Saturday delivery and changing the way it pays for employee and retiree benefits — it would probably be in the black. Although Congress expects it to break even, Congress also blocks the sensible measures that would enable it to do so.

Yet this isn't the story of creative destruction (private sector) versus hopeless ineptitude (public sector) that it may at first seem.

Borders, all of 40 years old, is just a business. The Postal Service, on the other hand, was the Internet before we had an Internet. Its death throes of necessity will be longer and more difficult, because the U.S. mail has more to do with who we are and what we want to be.

Its history is nothing short of illustrious. Rooted in the Puritan belief in universal literacy, which was seen as necessary so that all could read the Bible, America from its earliest days was primed to be a networked society dependent on information and its transmission.

No less than Ben Franklin used his organizational genius to modernize the primitive Colonial mail system, and when the new nation was born, the Post Office Act of 1792 decreed that newspapers would be carried at rock-bottom prices — a massive subsidy for information from what amounted to a federal tax on commercial correspondence. By 1838 newspapers accounted for just 15 percent of postal revenue — but 95 percent of weight.

By this time, in contrast to the plodding bureaucracy of today, the American postal system was the world's largest and certainly among its greatest. Merchants would send as much as $10,000 in cash through the mail without fear of loss, and the U.S. mail knit the budding nation together by fostering a vast network of stagecoach routes that were succeeded by railroads, which in turn fostered the spread of telegraph lines. With the rise of each breakthrough technology, government played a major role and universal service was a bedrock principle. Always, there was what one historian called a distinctively American "faith in the emancipatory potential of communications."

The Internet is only the most recent example. It arose from a Defense Department initiative to connect far-flung campus computers and evolved into a transformative technology that threatens to overturn many of the ones that came before — including traditional books and mail service.

Mail delivery will probably be with us long after printed books have evolved into novelties, gift items and art objects — if only because someone will have to deliver all the things that we purchase online. Of course, a Postal Service that maintains an outpost at every crossroads and hamlet, delivering unwanted coupons for margarine and laxatives six days a week at unsustainable cost, will have to change.

Just don't expect the adjustment to be as easy as liquidating Borders.

Daniel Akst, a columnist for Newsday, *is the author of* We Have Met the Enemy: Self-Control in an Age of Excess *from Penguin Press.*

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY
Mostly cloudy with scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms. South winds 15 to 20 mph.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers. South winds 15 to 20 mph.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲87° ▼78°	▲87° ▼78°	▲87° ▼78°	▲87° ▼78°	▲87° ▼78°

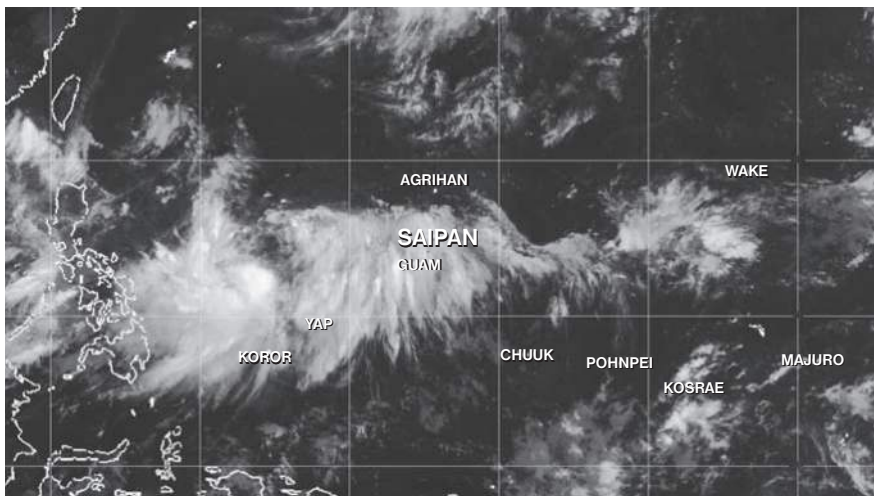
Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Thunderstorms	▲86	▼78
Palau	Showers	▲85	▼78
Yap	Showers	▲85	▼76
Chuuk	Rain	▲82	▼76
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	▲87	▼75
Kosrae	Rain	▲89	▼78
Majuro	Rain	▲84	▼77

Around The Globe

Auckland	Partly Cloudy	▲58	▼47
Beijing	Rain	▲85	▼73
Hong Kong	Thundershowers	▲88	▼82
Honolulu	Showers	▲87	▼75
London	Partly Cloudy	▲72	▼55
Los Angeles	Partly Cloudy	▲79	▼65
Manila	Thundershowers	▲83	▼80
Melbourne	Showers	▲57	▼50
Miami	Thundershowers	▲92	▼81
New York	Thundershowers	▲87	▼74
Osaka	Thundershowers	▲87	▼76
Paris	Partly Cloudy	▲68	▼51
Pusan	Thundershowers	▲83	▼75
Rome	Mostly Sunny	▲83	▼67
Salem	Sunny	▲85	▼55
San Francisco	Partly Cloudy	▲68	▼57
Seoul	Thundershowers	▲86	▼75
Tokyo	Thunderstorms	▲82	▼74
Washington, DC	Partly Cloudy	▲101	▼81

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, FRIDAY, JULY 29, 2011

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Tropical Storm Muifa (11W) is centered near 13N134E moving northwest at 6 mph with maximum sustained winds of 60 mph. Numerous showers and isolated thunderstorms are found in the vicinity of Muifa north of Koror west of a line from 18N130E to 12N135E to 9N131E. For more information on Tropical Storm Muifa, see advisories issued by the National Weather Service under WMO header WTPQ32 PGUM or bulletins issued by the Joint Typhoon Warning Center under WMO header WTPN32 PGTW. A monsoon trough curves east-northeastward from Tropical Storm Muifa through Pagan at 18N146E to end at a weak circulation centered east of the Marianas at 17N155E. Scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms are occurring near the monsoon trough over the southern Marianas between 10N and 17N from 136E to 150E farther south. Scattered showers and a few thunderstorms are found over Koror and Yap within 135 miles of a line from 6N136E to 10N139E. Converging trade winds east of the monsoon trough are coupling with divergent upper-level winds to create similar weather over an extensive area. This area is between eastern Micronesia and Wake Island within 195 miles of a line from 13N153E to 18N176E to 24N178E. A few trade-wind disturbances are generating scattered showers over Kosrae but south of Pohnpei within 105 miles of a line from 1N153E to 3N163E to 8N163E and also south of Majuro between the equator and 6N from 170E to 180.

Tides

Saipan Harbor

1:09 AM	Today	Low Tide:	1.2 Feet
6:09 AM	Today	High Tide:	2.0 Feet
1:33 PM	Today	Low Tide:	0.4 Feet
8:29 PM	Today	High Tide:	1.9 Feet

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	5:59 AM	6:48 PM
Sunday	5:59 AM	6:48 PM
Monday	5:59 AM	6:47 PM
Tuesday	6:00 AM	6:47 PM
Wednesday	6:00 AM	6:47 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	5:08 AM	6:15 PM
Sunday	6:07 AM	7:03 PM
Monday	7:06 AM	7:49 PM
Tuesday	8:04 AM	8:34 PM
Wednesday	9:02 AM	9:19 PM

GET YOUR PICTURES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS PUBLISHED—FOR FREE

The *Saipan Tribune* accepts for FREE publication the following:

PICTURES

- ISLAND SNAPSHOTS
  Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.
- BIRTHDAY GREETINGS
  A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
- BUSINESS
  Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
- SAMU'T SARI
  Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
- TRAVELOGUE
  Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- COMMUNITY BRIEFS
  Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.
- CAMPUS BULLETIN
  Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

REQUIREMENTS

For pictures:

- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
- Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

For announcements:

- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and a phone number.
- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

HOW TO SUBMIT

- E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com or jayvee_vallejera@saipantribune.com.
- Fax: (670) 235-3740
- Mail: PMB 34, P.O. Box 10001, Saipan, CNMI 96950
- Drop off: 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan
  To check if contributions are received, call (670) 235-6397, 235-2440, 235-8747

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Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

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ADVERTISING For inquiries contact (670) 235-2769. E-mail: sales@saipantribune.com

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF MAY 10, 2011

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-GUAM

C09317	4:25am	5:15am	Daily
C09313	7:55am	8:45am	3, 6
C09313	8:30am	9:20am	1, 2, 4, 5, 7
C09601	12:10pm	1:00pm	1, 4, 5, 7
C09603	3:05pm	3:55pm	1, 2, 4, 5, 7
5K382	6:00pm	6:50pm	2, 5, 7
C09605	6:30pm	7:20pm	Daily
C09599	9:30pm	10:20pm	Daily

SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)

DL287	6:00am	8:45am	Daily
DL297	4:35pm	7:20pm	Daily

SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)

OZ608	3:20am	6:50am	1, 5

SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)

OZ606	2:20am	6:00am	1
OZ606	2:50am	6:30am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
OZ604	3:30pm	7:00pm	2, 4, 6, 7

SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)

MU590	4:30am	7:20am	2, 6
3U8648	6:10am	8:40am	1, 5

SAIPAN-GUANZHOU (CAN)

3U8646	4:20am	7:30am	2, 4

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

OZ606/701	2:20am	11:25am	1 via ICN
OZ606/701	2:50am	11:25am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
C09317/891	4:25am	9:45am	3, 6 via GUM
DL287/173	6:00am	10:15pm	Daily via NRT
C09313/933	7:55am	8:40pm	3, 6 via GUM
C09603/933	3:05pm	8:40pm	1, 2, 4, 5, 7 via GUM
C09603/893	3:05pm	10:10pm	2, 5 via GUM-Palau
OZ604/703	3:20pm	11:00pm	2, 4, 6, 7 ICN
OZ604/715	3:20pm	11:30pm	7
C09599/PR111	9:30pm	7:50am+1	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM

SAIPAN-HONG KONG

OZ606/721	2:20am	11:50am	1 via ICN
OZ606/721	2:50am	11:50am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
C09603/909	3:05pm	9:25pm	1, 5 via GUM
5K168	3:25pm	6:35pm	1, 4, 6
OZ604/749	3:30pm	11:00pm	2, 4, 6, 7 via ICN

ARRIVALS

GUAM-SAIPAN

C09316	2:45am	3:35am	Daily
C09596	6:35am	7:25am	3, 6
C09596	7:00am	7:50am	1, 2, 4, 5, 7
C09600	10:05am	10:55am	1, 2, 4, 5, 7
5K389	1:35pm	2:25pm	1, 4, 6
C09602	1:40pm	2:30pm	1, 4, 5, 7
C09604	5:10pm	6:00pm	Daily
C09606	8:00pm	8:50pm	Daily

NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN

DL298	10:25am	3:00pm	Daily
DL288	8:05pm	12:35am+1	Daily

BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN

OZ607	9:00pm	2:20am+1	4, 7

SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN

OZ603	9:00am	2:30pm	2, 4, 6, 7
OZ605	7:40pm	1:10am+1	7
OZ605	8:10pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6

SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN

MU589	8:50pm	3:30am+1	1, 5
3U8647	10:40pm	5:00am+1	4, 7

GUANZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN

3U8645	7:40pm	3:00am+1	1, 5

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

OZ704/603	12:10am	2:30pm	2, 4, 6, 7 via ICN
DL172/288	7:45am	12:35am+1	Daily via NRT
C0890/9606	10:55am	8:50pm	3, 6 via GUM
OZ702/605	12:45pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ702/605	12:45pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
C0892/9596	9:55pm	7:50am+1	2, 5 via GUM-Palau
PR110/C09596	10:15pm	7:25am+1	6 via GUM
PR110/C09596	10:15pm	7:50am+1	1, 2, 4, 7 via GUM
C0934/9596	10:55pm	7:50am+1	1, 4, 7 via GUM
C0934/9596	10:55pm	7:25am+1	3, 6 via GUM
C0934/9596	11:25pm	7:50am+1	2, 5 via GUM

HONG KONG-SAIPAN

OZ724/603	12:30am	2:20pm	2 ,4 ,6, 7 via ICN
OZ750/603	1:00am	2:20pm	2, 4, 6, 7 via ICN
5K169	9:55am	5:00pm	2, 5, 7
OZ722/605	1:25pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ722/605	1:25pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
C0910/9596	10:30pm	7:50am+1	1, 5 via GUM

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 5K: FlyGuam; 3U: Sichuan Airlines; MU: China Eastern; CZ: China Southern; CO: Continental; DL: Delta Airlines; OZ: Asiana
ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The *Saipan Tribune* is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam–Rota			
FRE 100	7:30	8:00	Daily
Rota–Saipan			
FRE 100	8:20	8:50	Daily
Guam–Rota			
FRE 300	17:00	17:30	Daily
Rota–Saipan	17:50	18:20	Daily
Saipan–Rota			
FRE 200	9:30	10:00	Daily
Rota–Guam	10:20	10:45	Daily
Saipan–Rota			
FRE 400	18:55	19:25	Daily
Rota–Guam			
FRE 400	19:40	20:10	Daily
Saipan–Tinian			
FRE 101	6:45	6:55	Daily
FRE 103	7:30	7:40	Daily
FRE 105	8:00	8:10	Daily
FRE 107	8:40	8:50	Daily
FRE 109	9:10	9:20	Daily
FRE 111	10:45	10:55	Daily

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
FRE 113	11:40	11:50	Daily
FRE 115	13:00	13:10	Daily
FRE 117	14:30	14:40	Daily
FRE 119	16:00	16:10	Daily
FRE 121	16:40	16:50	Daily
FRE 123	17:40	17:50	Daily
FRE 125	18:30	18:40	Daily
Tinian–Saipan			
FRE 102	7:05	7:15	Daily
FRE 104	7:50	8:00	Daily
FRE 106	8:20	8:30	Daily
FRE 108	9:00	9:10	Daily
FRE 110	10:00	10:10	Daily
FRE 112	11:05	11:15	Daily
FRE 114	12:00	12:10	Daily
FRE 116	13:30	13:40	Daily
FRE 118	14:50	15:00	Daily
FRE 120	16:20	16:30	Daily
FRE 122	17:00	17:10	Daily
FRE 124	18:05	18:15	Daily
FRE 126	18:50	19:00	Daily

SCHEDULE OF RELIGIOUS SERVICES

CATHOLIC

Mt. Carmel Cathedral
Sunday Mass: 6am Chamorro, 9am English, 11am Filipino and 6pm English
Monday-Saturday: 6am Chamorro
Wednesday: 6pm Chamorro
Parish office hours:
Monday-Saturday
8am-12pm, 12-1pm, 1-5pm

Korean Center
Sunday: 10:30am
Wednesday: 10am
Thursday-Friday: 8pm
Saturday: 3pm and 7:30pm

Kristo Rai Parish
Sunday- Saturday: 6am
Wednesday: 6am and 6pm (PH Novena 5:45pm)
Friday: 5:30pm praying of Divine Mercy Chaplet; 6pm devotional mass in honor of the Sacred Heart of Jesus.
Saturday: 6am and 6pm (anticipated)
Sunday Mass: 6am, 8am and 9:30am 6pm Tagalog mass
Parish office hours: (Fr. Celso G. Magbanua) Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Saturday 8-11:30am/ 3-5:30pm, Wednesday and Friday 3-5pm.
Telephone no. 285-0273

Santa Soledad Mission Parish
Monday: 6pm
Tuesday: 6pm
Wednesday: 6pm
Friday: 6pm
Saturday: 6pm (Youth mass/ anticipated Sunday mass)
Sunday: 7am and 9am (Children's mass)
Parish office hours: Wednesday and Friday: 8-10am,
Saturday: 4-6pm
Telephone no. 256-4568

Saint Jude Parish
Monday- Friday: 6pm
Saturday: 7am
Sunday: 6am, 8am, 10am
Parish office hours: Monday-Friday 9:30-11:30am, 3:30-5pm
Office is close every Thursday and Saturday
Telephone no. 288-0007

San Antonio Parish
Monday-Friday 6pm
Saturday: 6pm
Sunday: 7am, 9am (Blessing of children)
Parish office hours: Tuesday-Saturday: 8-11:30am, 2-4:45pm
Close on Sunday and Monday

San Francisco de Borja-Rota
Sunday: 6am Chamorro, 8am English
Monday and Tuesday:6am Chamorro
Wednesday:6pm English
Thursday: 6am Chamorro
Friday: 6am English
Saturday: 6am Chamorro, 6pm Tagalog
Sunday: anticipated mass

San Isidro-Rota
Sunday: 5am, 8am, 10am
Monday-Friday: 7pm
Saturday: 5am and 7pm

San Jose (Oleai) Parish
Monday- Saturday: 6am daily mass
Monday- Sunday: 3pm Divine Mercy Chaplet
Wednesday: 6pm, mass, exposition of the blessed sacrament
Saturday: 6pm, anticipated Sunday mass
Sunday: 7:30-9am English, 6pm Tagalog mass
Office hours: Monday-Wednesday: 9am-12pm, 2-5pm
Thursday: day off
Friday- Saturday: 8am-12pm, 2-5pm
Telephone no. 234-6991

San Roque Parish
Sunday: 7:30am Chamorro, 9am English
Monday: 6pm English
Tuesday: 6pm English
Wednesday: 6pm English- novena mass to our Lady of San Roque oil
Thursday: 6pm English
Friday: 6pm English- Devotion to the sacred heart of Jesus (First Fridays)
Saturday: 6am English- Our Lady's Saturday mass for the intentions of the Men and Women in military service, 6pm English- anticipated mass
Parish office hours: daily except Thursday and Sundays: 4:30-6pm
Telephone no. 322-2404, Fr. Bong's cell: 285-912, Diocesan Finance office: 234-3000 ext.143

San Vicente Parish
Monday-Friday: 6pm,
Saturday: 6pm (First Saturday of every month)
Sunday: 6am anticipated mass, 6pm (Neo Catechumenal community mass), 8pm
Sunday: 6am, 9am, 6pm
Parish office hours: daily 9-11am
Telephone no. 235-8208 or 287-0131

Santa Remedios
Sunday: 8am
Monday: 6pm (1st Mondays cemetery masses at 5:30pm)
Tuesday- Friday: 6pm
Saturday: 6pm-anticipated Sunday mass 8-10pm
Parish office hours: Monday- Friday: 8:30am-12pm

PROTESTANT

Born Again Christian
(Upper Room Int'l Ministries), Saipan
Wednesday Prayer and Healing Night: 8-10:30pm
Saturday Tagalog Service: 8-10:30pm
Sunday English Service: 9:30-11am
Sunday School for Children: 10-11am
Sunday Filipino Service: 7-9pm

Calvary Baptist Church, Saipan
Sunday School: 9am
Sunday Morning Worship: 10am
Sunday Evening Worship: 6pm
Wednesday Prayer Service: 7pm
Telephone no. 234-6026/27

Chinese Christian Church of Saipan
Worship Services:
Sunday: Chinese and Filipino 9am, English 6pm
Bible Study: Wednesday and Saturday 8pm
Telephone no. 235-8540

Cornerstone Christian Church, Saipan
Morning Service, Sunday, 10:00 am
Evening Service, Sunday, 6:00 pm
Children Sunday School, 10:00am/ 6:00 pm
Prayer Meeting, Wednesday, 7-9 pm
Youth Night of Worship, Friday, 6:30 pm
As Perdido Road
Chalan Piao, Saipan MP 96950
Tel. No. (670) 235-8590
Email: cornerstone@cfemcares.org

Episcopal/Anglican Church on Saipan
St. Paul's Episcopal Church
Worship Service Sunday: Holy Communion 9:00am
Place: Garapan, Plumeria Road,
Call 285-6081 for directions

Grace Christian Assembly, Saipan
Sunday Worship Service: 9-11am
Sunday school/ Children's church 9am (nursery available during Sunday service)
GBI Classes: 4-6pm
Prayer Meeting: 6am Tuesday GCA Kagman, Wednesday Navy Hill, Thursday San Antonio
Home Cell Bible Study: 7pm (Through out the week)
Telephone no. 322-5680

Iglesia Ni Cristo, Saipan
Wednesday: 7:45pm (English)
Thursday: 5:30am (English); 7:45 pm (Tagalog)
Saturday: 7:45pm (Tagalog)
Sunday: 6:45am (English)
Children Worship Service: Sunday, 9am (English)

Immanuel United Methodist Church
Chalan Kanoa Drive, Chalan Kanoa (east of Town Center and Beach Road, Near Mt. Carmel Cathedral)
Worship Service: 9:00am
Children's Sunday School: 9:00am
Choir Practice: 8:00am
Singspiration: 8:30am
Prayer, Care & Share: Wednesday 7:00pm
Pastor: Millie Carroll 322-6158

Immanuel Methodist Church
(Filipino Congregation)
Sunday: 7:00am-Choir Rehearsal
8:00am-Church Service (Tagalog)
9:15am-Sunday School
Wednesday: 6:30pm, home group
8:00pm-Prayer Meeting
Thursday: 7:30pm-Choir Practice (Church)
Saturday: 8:00pm-Choir Practice (Parsonage)
(Korean Congregation)
Sunday worship: 9am, 10:30, 1pm
Wednesday evening service: 8pm
Daily morning prayer: 5am

Jesus is Lord Church, Saipan
Sunday English Service: 7:30-9am,
Sunday Tagalog Service: 9-11am and 6-8pm,
Wednesday: 7:30-9pm

Korean Presbyterian Church, Saipan
Sunday School: 9:20am
Sunday Adult: 11am
Sunday Evening: 7:30pm
Wednesday: 8pm

Life in the Son Christian Fellowship, Saipan
Sunday Worship Service: 10am–12noon
Tuesday: Leadership Institute 7pm-10pm
Wednesday: Corporate prayer 7pm-8pm
Last Friday of the month-prayer: 7pm-11pm
Friday: Youth on Fire: 7pm-9pm
Tel. No. 235-LIFE (5433)

Marianas Baptist Church, Saipan
English Worship Service: 9-10:30am
Evening Worship Service: 6-7pm
Children Sunday School: 9-10:30am
Tagalog Sunday School: 11am-12pm
English Sunday School: 11am-12pm
Korean Worship Service: 11am-12pm
Wednesday Prayer Meeting:
English, 7pm-8pm
Korean: 8:30pm-9:30pm

Missions Connection Ministry
Every Sunday Celebrations:
10am (English), 6pm (Tagalog)
Wednesday Bible Study: 7pm
Youth Impact Friday: 7pm
Saturday Prayer Meeting: 7pm

Northern Marianas Christian Church
Sunday Worship Service 10am Fina Sisu Housing FS#1 (Child care will be provided)
Friday Services @ 7pm Fina Sisu FS#1
for more info pls. contact Ryan 484-2620

Marianas Bible Fellowship Center
Sunday School: 9-9:30am
Divine Worship: 9:30-11am
Evening Service: 7pm-8:30pm
Wednesday Prayer Meeting: 8pm-9pm

Pentecostal Missionary Church of Christ (4th Watch)
Sunday worship 8:30am
Sunday evening 7:00pm
Prayer meeting, every Wednesday 7:30pm
San Jose village, after San Jose Hotel
Telephone: 789-7566

Saipan Christian Church
Sunday: 7:30am-10am
Sunday: 6:30 pm -9pm
Monday: 8 pm -10pm (Prayer Meeting)
Thursday: 8pm-10pm (Cell Groups)

Saipan Church of Christ
Sunday Bible Class: 9am
Sunday Worship: 10am
Sunday Worship English: 10-11am
Sunday Worship Tagalog: 6-7pm
Thursday Bible Study: 7pm

Saipan Community Church
(Sunday Services)
Palau Service: 7:30am-9am
English Service: 10am-11:30am
Chuukese Service: 1pm-2:30pm
Filipino Service: 5:00pm-7:00pm

Seventh-Day Adventist Church, Saipan
(Saturday Church Services)
Sabbath School Program: 9-10am
Lesson Study: 10-10:40am
Divine Service: 11-12pm
Visitation: 3-4pm
Adventist Youth Program: 4:30-5:30pm
Sundown Worship: 6-7pm

First Baptist Church Koblerville
Sunday services:
Sunday school 9:00am
Morning worship 10:00am
Evening service 6:00pm
Wednesday evening bible study 7:00pm

Chinese services
Sunday morning 10:00am
Sunday evening 7:00pm

Everyone is warmly welcome to attend our worship services. Transportation is readily available to anyone who needs a ride to our church.
Telephone No: 285-4661/2

Thy Word Ministries Saipan
Faith Center
Phone 234-0209
New Christian Charismatic Church Service located in Chalan Paio, Beach Road in the Sablan building on the 2nd floor above Subway Sandwiches.
Senior Pastors: George & Gail Kamakahi
Asst. Pastors: Eric & Penny Sakaguchi

Service Times
Sunday 10:00am Worship Service
Sunday 7pm Discipleship Classes
Tuesday 10:00am Bible Studies
Tuesday 6:00pm Intercessory Prayer
Tuesday 7:00pm Music Practice
Wednesday 7:00pm Mid-Week Service
Saturday 10:00am Evangelism

Upper Room International Ministries
Sunday 5:30am-6:30am
Morning prayer
7am-9am English service
7am-9am Sunday school
10am-12noon English service, Koblerville
Wednesday 7pm-9pm Prayer meeting
Saturday 7pm-9pm Tagalog service
Venue: Jason Presbyterian Church
Gualo Rai, Saipan

Victory Chapel Christian
Fellowship Church
Sunday School: 9:30am
Sunday AM Worship:10:30am
Sunday PM Worship:7:00am
Wed Worship: 7:30pm
Prayer 45 min. Prior to Service Times
Morning Prayer: 6-8am M-S

VICTORIOUS CHRISTIAN CHURCH
(Formerly God's Victorious Army)
Sunday 8:30am to 10:30am - Worship Service
Monday 7:00 pm - Women's Fellowship
Tuesday nights - Home cellgroup
Wednesday - 7:30pm to 9:00pm Mid Week Service
Friday 7:30pm to 9:00pm Prayer Meeting
Saturday nights - Praise and worship practice
Last Friday of the month - Overnight praying meeting
Pastor Brendon Perez - Tel# 2359246

Editor's Note: Information subject to change without prior notice. All information provided by the respective churches. If you want your church or religious activities included or to report changes and errors, call *Saipan Tribune* at 235-6397 or 235-2440 or email editor@saipantribune.com.

Business

Economy growing at its slowest pace since the recession

WASHINGTON (AP)—The economy likely grew in the first half of the year at the slowest pace since the recession ended, and the second half isn't looking much better.

Weak consumer spending, dismal hiring and cuts in government spending likely held back growth in the April-June quarter. The government will report on second-quarter growth on Friday.

Economists forecast the economy expanded at an annual rate of 1.7 percent, according to a FactSet survey. That follows a 1.9 percent growth rate in the first three months of the year. Those are the slowest back-to-back quarters since the economy began recovering from the recession two years ago.

Even if the economy picks up later this year, growth in 2011 will likely be slower than the 2.9 percent expansion last year. Economists at RBC Capital Markets, for example, forecast growth of 2.3 percent this year.

Complicating an already-weak economy is the debt crisis in Washington. No matter what lawmakers do to resolve that crisis, their decision will likely slow growth in the short term. A deal to raise the borrowing limit would likely include long-term spending cuts, which would withdraw government stimulus at a precarious time. If Congress fails to raise the borrowing limit and the government defaults on its debt, financial markets could fall and interest rates could rise.

Most economists expect growth to pick up slightly in the second half of the year, as the impact of high gas prices and supply disruptions stemming from Japan's March 11 earthquake ease. But growth won't be strong enough to lower the unemployment rate, now 9.2 percent.

"We're starting off the quarter in weaker shape than we thought," said Nigel Gault, an economist at IHS Global Insight. Gault notes that data for June showed little growth in retail sales, factory output and hiring.

Gault said he expects growth of less than 3 percent in the July-September quarter. That's down from his earlier forecast of 3.4 percent. Economists at Goldman Sachs and JPMorgan Chase project third-quarter growth of only 2.5 percent. That's barely enough to keep the unemployment rate from rising.

J&J cuts maximum Tylenol dose to prevent overdoses

TRENTON, N.J. (AP)—Johnson & Johnson said Thursday that it's reducing the maximum daily dose of its Extra Strength Tylenol pain reliever to lower risk of accidental overdose from acetaminophen, its active ingredient and the top cause of liver failure.

The company's McNeil Consumer Healthcare Division said the change affects Extra Strength Tylenol sold in the U.S.—one of many products in short supply in stores due to a string of recalls.

Starting sometime this fall, labels on Extra Strength Tylenol packages will now list the maximum daily dose as six pills, or a total of 3,000 milligrams, down from eight pills a day, or 4,000 milligrams. Beginning next year, McNeil will also reduce the maximum daily dose for its Regular Strength Tylenol and other adult pain relievers containing acetaminophen, the most widely used pain killer in the country.

Besides Tylenol, acetaminophen is the active ingredient in the prescription painkillers Percocet and Vicodin and in some nonprescription pain relievers, including NyQuil and some Sudafed products. It's found in thousands of medicines taken for headaches, fever, sore throats and chronic pain.

But people taking multiple medicines at once don't always realize how much acetaminophen they are ingesting, partly because prescription drug labels often list it under the abbreviation "APAP."

Two years ago, a panel of advisers to the Food and Drug Administration called for sweeping restrictions to prevent accidental fatal overdoses of acetaminophen.

Then in January, the FDA said it would cap the amount of acetaminophen in Vicodin, Percocet and other prescription pain killers at 325 milligrams per capsule—just under half the 700 milligram maximum of some products on the market then. The agency also said it was working with pharmacies and other medical groups to develop standard labeling for acetaminophen.

"Acetaminophen is safe when used as directed," Dr. Edwin Kuffner, McNeil's head of over-the-counter medical affairs, said in a statement. "McNeil is revising its labels for products containing acetaminophen in an attempt to decrease the likelihood of accidental overdosing."

Nation

Republicans put off vote on debt limit

WASHINGTON (AP)—An intensive endgame at hand, Republican leaders abruptly postponed a vote Thursday night on legislation to avert a threatened government default and slice federal spending by nearly $1 trillion.

"The votes obviously were not there," conceded Rep. David Dreier, R-Calif., after Speaker John Boehner and the leadership had spent hours trying to corral the support of rebellious conservatives.

The decision created fresh turmoil as divided government struggled to head off an unprecedented default that would leave the Treasury without the funds needed to pay all its bills. Administration officials say Tuesday is the deadline for Congress to act.

President Barack Obama has threatened to veto the House bill, and the White House taunted Republicans as they struggled.

"Another day wasted while the clock ticks, now is the time to compromise so we can solve this problem and reduce the deficit," tweeted communications director Dan Pfeiffer.

Senate Democrats stood by to scuttle the bill—if it ever got them—as a way of forcing Republicans to accept changes sought by Obama.

The first sign of trouble for the House's supporters occurred after hours of routine debate, when the GOP leadership suddenly halted work on the measure.

As the evening slipped by Boehner summoned a string of Republican critics of the bill to his office. Asked what he and the speaker had talked about, Rep. Jeff Flake, R-Ariz., said, "I think that's rather obvious. ... There's negotiations going on."

Based on public statements by lawmakers themselves, it appeared that five of some two dozen holdouts were from South Carolina. The state is also represented by Sen. Jim DeMint, who has solid ties to tea party groups and is a strong critic of compromising on the debt issue.

Others said conservatives wanted additional steps taken to try to ensure that a constitutional balanced-budget amendment would be sent to the states for ratification. As drafted, the legislation merely requires both houses of Congress to vote on the issue.

Another option under review was to wait for the Democratic-controlled Senate to pass legislation first, a reversal in Republican strategy that would increase Obama's leverage.

With the bill in limbo, a few first-term conservatives slipped into a small chapel a few paces down the hall from the Capitol Rotunda as they contemplated one of the most consequential votes of their careers.

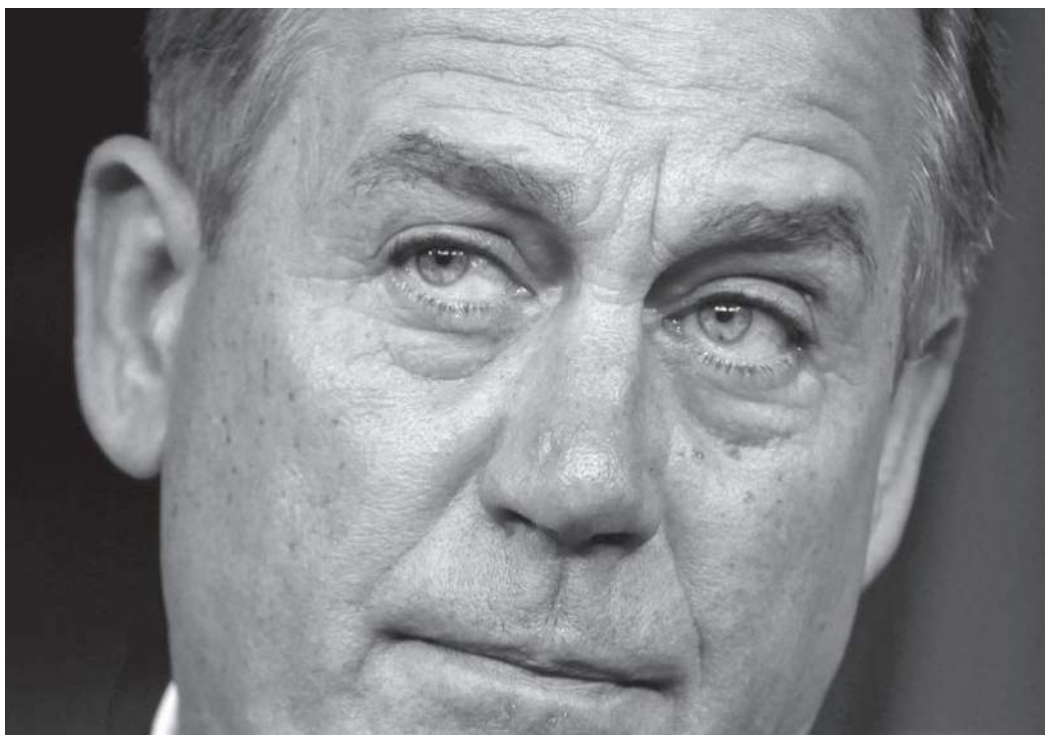
Asked if he was seeking divine inspiration, Rep. Tim Scott, R-S.C., said that had already happened. "I was leaning no and now I am a no."

Many more congregated in the office of the chief GOP vote counter, California Rep. Kevin McCarthy, perhaps drawn to the 19 boxes of pizza that were rolled in. Boehner joined them but did not speak to reporters.

Earlier, Boehner had exuded optimism.

"Let's pass this bill and end the crisis," said the president's principal Republican antagonist in a new and contentious era of divided government. "It raises the debt limit and cuts government spending by a larger amount."

President Barack Obama has threatened to veto the measure, and in debate on the House floor, Rep. Debbie Wasserman Schultz of Florida savaged it as a "Republican plan for default." She said the GOP hoped to "hold our economy hostage while forcing an ideological agenda" on the country.



AP

House Speaker John Boehner of Ohio takes part in a news conference on Capitol Hill in Washington, Thursday, July 28, 2011, to discuss the debt crisis showdown.

Polygamist leader mute during opening statement

SAN ANGELO, Texas (AP)—A Texas prosecutor told jurors Thursday he would present an audio recording of a polygamist sect leader raping a 12-year-old and other evidence showing the 55-year-old impregnated a 15-year-old girl during the man's sexual assault trial.

The trial began shortly after Warren Jeffs fired his high-powered defense team and a judge allowed the ecclesiastical head of the Fundamentalist Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints to defend himself.

But when it came his turn to present an opening statement, Jeffs was mute, sitting silently in his courtroom seat.

Then, as the prosecutor continued to present his case, Jeffs stared off into space, appearing not to be paying attention to the proceedings.

"You've sat here now for an hour and not said a word," District Judge Barbara Walther said, then added his continued silence could have "a very bad result."

The silence was a sharp contrast to Jeffs' earlier behavior in court. Then, he spoke for more than 20 minutes, telling the judge he had spent extensive time training his lawyers, but they weren't able to present "a pure defense." He then pleaded for more time to prepare the case by himself.

But Walther turned down that request. Jeffs has burned through seven attorneys in six months, and prosecutors complained his frequent switching of counsel was a delay tactic.

"Mr. Jeffs, the court is not going to recess these proceedings to let you go to law school," Walther said in deciding to start the trial as scheduled.

Jeffs' sect is an offshoot of mainstream Mormonism that believes polygamy brings exaltation in Heaven, and followers see him as God's spokesman on Earth. He is accused of sexually assaulting two underage girls at a remote compound in West Texas. If convicted, he could face life in prison.

The surreal day in court began with Jeffs addressing Walther in long and complicated sentences frequently punctuated by awkward pauses when he would stare intently at the floor.

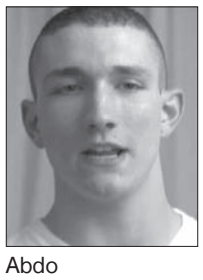
"The condition of my present defense is such that I cannot use them," he said of his attorneys. "They, not having all needed understanding for my defense, which wants for representation by one who knows and understands the facts of these truths."

Walther asked when he had arrived at the decision, and Jeffs launched into another long-winded answer, assuring her that neither he nor his attorneys have "been idle."

"This has been a continued labor on my part, seeing counsel often have ideas different from the needs at hand," he said, adding that his defense team never "had a true understanding of the facts."

Army: AWOL soldier admits to Fort Hood attack plan

KILLEEN, Texas (AP)—An AWOL soldier who had weapons stashed in a motel room near Fort Hood has admitted planning an attack on the Texas post, where 13 people died in 2009 in the worst mass shooting ever on a U.S. military installation, the Army said in an alert issued Thursday.



Abdo

Pfc. Naser Abdo, a 21-year-old soldier granted conscientious objector status this year after he said his Muslim beliefs prevented him from fighting, was arrested Wednesday. Agents found firearms and "items that could be identified as bomb-making components, including gunpowder," in his motel room, according to FBI spokesman Erik Vasys.

The Army alert sent via email and obtained by The Associated Press says Killeen police arrested Abdo after a tip from the owners of a gun shop and that he "was in possession of a large quantity of ammunition, weapons and a bomb inside a backpack."

Upon questioning, the alert says, he admitted planning an attack on Fort Hood. Officials have not offered details about Abdo's possible intentions. The infantry soldier from Fort Campbell, Ky., whose hometown is Garland, Texas, applied for conscientious objector status last year. A military review board recommended this spring that he be separated from the Army.

The discharge was delayed after Abdo was charged with possessing child pornography. Fort Campbell civilian spokesman Bob Jenkins said Abdo "was fully aware that he was being investigated for possessing child pornography since November 2010." An Article 32 military hearing last month recommended he be court-martialed; he went absent without leave during the Fourth of July holiday weekend.

Abdo told an AP reporter a week later that he was concerned about his safety and had considered purchasing a gun for protection, but had not yet done so.

The military's criminal investigation division, along with the federal Joint Terrorism Task Force, also investigated Abdo earlier this year after he was flagged for making unspecified anti-American comments while taking a language class in April, according to a U.S. official briefed on the investigation.

The official, who spoke on condition of anonymity because the investigation is ongoing, said neither the military nor the task force discovered anything at the time to indicate Abdo was planning an attack.

ACROSS THE NATION

Ex-astronaut Nowak dropped from the Navy

ORLANDO, Fla. (AP)—A former astronaut banished from NASA after she attacked a romantic rival is being kicked out of the Navy, officials said Thursday. Capt. Lisa Nowak will retire with an "other than honorable" discharge and her pay grade will be knocked down one rank, Assistant Secretary of Navy Juan Garcia said in a statement. Nowak's conduct "fell well short" of what is expected of Navy officers and she "demonstrated a complete disregard for the well-being of a fellow service member," Garcia said. Nowak was accused of confronting Colleen Shipman in the parking lot of the Orlando International Airport in February 2007 after driving from Houston. She had diapers in the car, but Nowak disputes she wore the diapers. Shipman, an Air Force captain, had begun dating Nowak's love interest, former space shuttle pilot Bill Oefelein.

Church van overturns in Tenn., killing teen

WAVERLY, Tenn. (AP)—Authorities say a church van returning from a youth outing overturned near an interstate off-ramp in Tennessee, killing a teenage girl and injuring 11 others. Sgt. Chad Smith of the Tennessee Highway Patrol said there were 12 people in the van when it crashed Thursday morning about 55 miles west of Nashville. Troopers say several youths had been returning from a so-called lock-in at a church in Memphis. Children and teens typically stay up all night to participate in "lock-in" activities, and troopers say they are investigating the possibility that the 24-year-old driver fell asleep. Trooper Bruce Gildersleeve says 14-year-old MacKenzie Turner was killed in the wreck. Ashley Culver, who is a spokeswoman for Vanderbilt Children's Hospital in Nashville, says three children taken there had been upgraded to stable condition.

5 years' probation for Malcolm X daughter in theft

NEW YORK (AP)—A daughter of Malcolm X has been sentenced to five years of probation for stealing the identity of an elderly family friend to run up big credit card bills. Prosecutors say Malikah Shabazz (shuh-BAHZ') made $55,000 in illegal purchases. The 46-year-old North Carolina resident pleaded guilty and was freed from jail in June. She has to pay back the full amount stolen as part of the deal. Prosecutors in New York say Shabazz opened credit cards in the name of a 70-year-old New York City woman whose late husband was one of Malcolm X's bodyguards and was present when he was assassinated at the Audubon Ballroom in Harlem in 1965. Shabazz's lawyer, Russell Rothberg, did not immediately return a call for comment Thursday.

Asia

3 Indonesians found guilty in Islamic sect attack

JAKARTA, Indonesia (AP)—The ringleader of a frenzied mob attack that killed three members of a minority Muslim sect was sentenced Thursday to 5 1/2 months in prison in a ruling decried by critics as too lenient and a blow to religious freedom in Indonesia.

Eleven others also were convicted of less serious charges of weapons possession in the February violence and sentenced to between three and six months behind bars.

Indonesia, a predominantly Muslim and secular nation of 240 million, has a long history of religious tolerance.

But an extremist fringe has grown more vocal in recent years and the government, which relies on the support of Islamic parties in Parliament, has been accused of caving in to them. The government in 2008 banned the activities of the sect and rights activists say the decision might have encouraged the violence against the group.

The attack on members of Ahmadiyah—considered deviant by many conservative Muslims here and abroad because they do not believe Muhammad was the final prophet—placed Indonesia under the international spotlight because it was captured on video and widely circulated on the Internet.

It provoked condemnation in Europe and the U.S.

The clip showed 1,500 people storming a house in Banten province on Feb. 6 with machetes, rocks, and clubs to stop sect followers from worshipping.

They beat three men to death and injured six others before setting cars and houses ablaze.

Though a policeman showed up at the scene, his cries of "stop" were drowned out by chants from the crowd on "Allahu Akbar!" or "God is Great!"

The 17-year-old ringleader, Dani bin Misra, wearing a black leather jacket and a white skull cap, is seen on the footage eagerly smashing the skull of one of the lifeless victims with a rock.

The Serang District Court found him and 11 others guilty of illegal possession of weapons and involvement in the attack. None was charged with murder or manslaughter and the maximum penalty for weapons possession is 5 1/2 years imprisonment.

"This verdict is an embarrassment to Indonesia," said Rafendi Djamin, the executive director of the Jakarta-based Human Rights Working Group, adding that it shows how a small, radical fringe can influence the judicial system.

Police did not conduct thorough investigations, he said, and prosecutors failed to call key eyewitnesses to the attack in the village of Cikeusik.

"This will do nothing to deter such attacks on minorities in the future and only threatens the democratic process in our country," Djamin said.

The U.S. State Department spokesman Mark Toner said in a statement the U.S. was disapointed at the "disproportionately light sentences."

"The United States encourages Indonesia to defend its tradition of tolerance for all religions, a tradition praised by President Obama in his November 2010 visit to Jakarta."

The Setara Institute for Peace and Democracy, a human rights group, said that attacks by religious hard-liners were steadily increasing.

South Korean soldiers search debris for land mines

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—South Korean troops searched Friday for land mines that may have been dislodged by landslides and flooding that have killed dozens of people.

Torrential downfalls since Tuesday have severely disrupted life in Seoul and its surrounding areas, submerging streets filled with idled cars, flooding subway stations and forcing businesses to shut. At least 50 people have been killed.

Adding to the misery were fears that land mines may be buried in the debris of a landslide in the capital and that others may have been swept up in floodwaters flowing into the country across the mine-strewn border with North Korea. The military said it has sent some 140 soldiers armed with metal detectors to search for such ordnance.

Decades ago, South Korea planted land mines on Seoul's Wumyeon Mountain as part of efforts to thwart any possible land invasion by North Korean troops. Defense Ministry officials said most of them were removed between 1999 and 2006 but 10 haven't been accounted for.

A landslide there Wednesday killed at least 16 people.

North Korea's state media reported Thursday that heavy rains have hit much of the country and destroyed homes and buildings. Impoverished North Korea is susceptible to damage from heavy rains due to poor drainage and deforestation.

Last year, dozens of land mines apparently swept down from North Korea following heavy rains washed up in South Korea, killing one person and wounding another.

Also Friday, tens of thousands of South Korean firefighters, soldiers, police officers and other workers continued to clean up walls of mud and search for possible survivors in hard-hit areas, according to the National Emergency Management Agency.

The official death toll of 50 does not include 11 other people who died in accidents amid the rains that emergency officials say were caused by negligence. They cited a man who was drunk and went swimming and the floodwaters and drowned.

ASIAN BRIEFS

Myanmar's Suu Kyi seeks end to ethnic fighting

YANGON, Myanmar (AP)—Pro-democracy leader Aung San Suu Kyi has called upon Myanmar's new president to implement a cease-fire and open peace talks to end fighting with ethnic guerrilla groups. Suu Kyi's open letter sent Thursday to President Thein Sein and four rebellious ethnic groups warns that their conflict can expand if not addressed through genuine negotiations. She offered to assist in any way she could to help achieve a cease-fire. Ethnic minority groups have been fighting for decades for more autonomy.

Emotional funeral for South Vietnam's ex-leader Ky

KUALA LUMPUR, Malaysia (AP)—The family of U.S.-backed South Vietnamese ex-leader Nguyen Cao Ky paid tribute to him at a tearful funeral Friday, urging people to remember him as a man who profoundly loved his homeland. The flamboyant former air force general was prime minister of South Vietnam for two of the most tumultuous years of the Vietnam War in the mid-1960s. Relatives and friends flew from the United States and Vietnam for his funeral in Malaysia after he died at age 80 on July 23 from complications linked to a sudden lung infection.

Bus, truck collision in Bangladesh kills 17

DHAKA, Bangladesh (AP)—A crowded bus collided head on with a truck in northern Bangladesh on Thursday, killing at least 17 people and injuring 30, police said. The fatalities included four children, four women and three men who died instantly and six other passengers who succumbed to their injuries at a hospital, local police chief Anisur Rahman said. All the dead were on the bus that crashed into a truck early Thursday at Shajahanpur in Bogra district, 100 miles (176 kilometers) north of the capital, Dhaka.

World

Norway's 'lone-wolf' attacks stir angst in Europe

OSLO, Norway (AP)—Norway casts it as the isolated act of a lone-wolf terrorist whose boasts of a far-flung network of anti-Muslim warriors were the fantasies of a deranged mind.

European officials at an emergency counter-terror meeting see a continent-wide threat from right-wing extremists amid mounting Islamophobia—and warn of possible copycats.

Two visions of the Norway atrocity emerged Thursday as Europe gropes for answers following the massacre that claimed 78 lives.

The twin attacks carried out by Anders Behring Breivik have stirred questions in Europe about whether authorities have neglected the threat of right-wing extremists in their push to crack down on Islamist terror groups after 9/11.

Security officials insist they have not, and statistics from the European police agency Europol show no surge in right-wing terror.

Still, many politicians saw the Norway attacks as a violent expression of a far-right populist movement that has swept anti-Muslim parties calling for strict immigration limits into parliaments across the continent.

At an emergency meeting in Brussels, European Union counterterrorism officials warned radicals who share Breivik's ideology might be tempted to follow his lead.

"Clearly, one major risk is that somebody may actually try to mount a similar attack as a copycat attack or as a way of showing support," said Tim Jones, principal adviser to the EU's counterterrorism coordinator. In September, EU interior ministers are to meet to discuss responses to the Norway massacre.

Across Europe, far-right groups were quick to distance themselves from the Norway attacker. Geert Wilders of the Netherlands' right-wing Party for Freedom tweeted: "Terrible attack in Oslo, many innocent victims of violent, sick mind."

But some political leaders in Holland, which like Norway has grappled with an increasingly fractious debate about Muslim integration, said firebrand anti-Islamic rhetoric can fire the mind of a man like Breivik, who referred to Wilders repeatedly in his sprawling manifesto.

AP

The farm of Anders Behring Breivik is seen in Asta, central Norway, Thursday, July 28, 2011.

Libyan rebels say military commander killed

BENGHAZI, Libya (AP)—The head of the Libyan rebel armed forces was shot and killed Thursday just before arriving for questioning by rebel authorities, their political leader said in a carefully worded statement to reporters that gave few details on who was behind the killing.

Adding to the confusion, the rebels had said hours earlier they had already detained the commander, Abdel-Fattah Younis, on suspicion his family might still have ties to the regime of Moammar Gadhafi, raising questions about whether he might have been assassinated by his own side.

Such a scenario would signal a troubling split within the rebel movement at a time when their forces have failed to make battlefield gains despite nearly four months of NATO airstrikes against Gahdafi's forces. It could also shake the confidence of the United States, Britain and several dozen other nations that have recognized the rebel council as Libya's legitimate leaders.

Announcing the killing at a press conference where he did not take questions, Mustafa Abdul-Jalil, head of the rebels' National Transitional Council, called Younis "one of the heroes of the 17th of February revolution," a name marking the date of early protests against Gadhafi's regime.

He said two of the commander's aides, both colonels, were also killed in the attack by gunmen and that rebels had arrested the head of the group behind the attack. He did not say what he thought motivated the killers.

Younis was Gadhafi's interior minister before defecting to the rebels early in the uprising, which began in February. His abandoning of the Libyan leader raised Western hopes that the growing opposition could succeed in forcing out the country's ruler of more than four decades.

Rebel forces, however, held mixed views of the man, with some praising him for defecting and others criticizing his long association with Gadhafi.

Hours before the commander's death was announced, rebel military spokesman Mohammed al-Rijali had said Younis was taken for interrogation from his operations room near the front line to the de facto rebel capital of Benghazi in eastern Libya.

WORLD BRIEFS

Hugo Chavez turns 57 vowing to overcome cancer

CARACAS, Venezuela (AP)—Venezuelan leader Hugo Chavez sang on a balcony of the presidential palace as he celebrated his 57th birthday Thursday before a crowd of adoring supporters, vowing to overcome cancer. Chavez waved a large Venezuelan flag on the balcony, then sang and swayed while a band below playing folk music. He saluted to the crowd and blew kisses while hundreds of supporters cheered and pumped fists in the air. "We will live!" Chavez told the crowd. "Long live the homeland!" He also pledged to win re-election in 2012, saying: "We're going for 10 million votes next year!" Chavez put an arm around one of his daughters and watched while sparkling candles burned on a giant cake.

16 killed in Ukraine mine blast

KIEV, Ukraine (AP)—A powerful explosion rocked a mine in eastern Ukraine early Friday, killing 16 workers, emergency officials said. Two workers were hospitalized with burns and emergency officials were working to locate 10 other miners who had worked in the area of the explosion. The blast hit the Suhodilsk-Eastern mine in the eastern Luhansk region at about 2 a.m. local time Friday at a depth of 915 meters (0.6 miles), the ministry said. Investigators are working to establish the cause of the explosion. Ukraine's coal mines are among the world's most dangerous due to outdated equipment and poor safety standards.

Maharlika

PINOY LIFE IN THE MARIANAS

Saturday, July 30, 2011

6th plunder case filed vs Gloria Arroyo

By LEILA B. SALAVERRIA
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

It's raining plunder suits for former President and now Pampanga Rep. Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo.

Yet another case was filed against Arroyo on Tuesday at the Office of the Ombudsman over the alleged misuse of P325 million in intelligence funds of the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office (PCSO) during her term.

Also named in the complaint for plunder, malversation of public funds and violation of the antigraft law were former Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita, former Commission on Audit (COA) Chair Reynaldo Villar, former PCSO General Manager Rosario Uriarte and former PCSO Directors Sergio Valencia, Jose Taruc, Raymundo Roquero, Ma. Fatima Valdes and Manuel Morato.

This is the sixth plunder case filed against Arroyo and the first following President Aquino's appointment of a new Ombudsman, former Supreme Court Justice Conchita Carpio-Morales.

But it is the second plunder case stemming from the controversy over the alleged misuse of the PCSO intelligence funds.

"This is the first test we are submitting to the Ombudsman," said Jaime Regalario of the group that calls itself Kilusang Makabayang Ekonomiya.

Regalario, retired Brig. Gen. Danilo Lim and Risa Hontiveros of the party-list group Akbayan are the complainants in the case. They were accompanied by former Special Prosecutor Dennis Villa-Ignacio and lawyer Lorna Kapunan in filing the complaint.

The complainants told reporters that they were confident of the strength of the case because they had gathered documentary evidence to fill a suitcase.

Unmet requirements

In the complaint, Lim, Regalario and Hontiveros said the respondents did not meet the requirements for the release or disbursement of intelligence funds except for the one requiring the approval of the President.

The other requirements were that a provision should be included in the budget for intelligence funds; the funds should be used for confidential activities; 80 percent of the funds should be used for field operations; and quarterly reports should be submitted to the Senate President, House Speaker and COA chair.

Arroyo

The complainants said all these requirements were not met.

They said Uriarte would make a "template" request for intelligence funds, which Arroyo or Ermita would approve automatically.

The complainants also said the intelligence funds were given through checks issued in favor of Uriarte.

Uriarte was thus made the proponent and disbursing officer of the money by the PCSO board of directors—a violation of a COA circular, according to the complainants.

They said Uriarte violated the procedure on liquidation and audit of intelligence funds because there was no monthly or periodic liquidation of cash advances, and no vouchers and supporting papers were forwarded to the COA.

They also said Uriarte implicitly admitted to not submitting the required reports and other documents when she said at the recent Senate inquiry into the issue that she had transmitted the reports and documents pertaining to the PCSO intelligence funds to then President Arroyo.

Irrelevance

The complainants cited data from Sen. Franklin Drilon, who said the PCSO intelligence funds in 2009, amounting to P116.4 million, were spent against bomb threats, kidnapping, destabilization and terrorism, which were irrelevant to the agency's mandate and functions.

They said Uriarte also admitted to using the intelligence funds for blood money for the families of persons killed by overseas Filipino workers and for relief operations for victims of natural disasters.

But the complainants said Uriarte did not explain where the rest of the intelligence funds went, and merely said Arroyo knew what was to be done with the money.

They said it could be concluded that the unaccounted funds were illegally amassed by the respondents because the latter were the only persons in control of and responsible for the money.

In including COA Chair Villar as respondent, the complainants said he did not issue any credit advice to prohibit the further drawing of cash advances on the PCSO funds despite the absence of liquidation reports when he assumed office.

They said Villar did not issue any notice despite reports from his subordinates that the funds were utilized in the months before the 2010 elections.

Quality of evidence

Mr. Aquino's allies in the House of Representatives on Tuesday said the conviction of Arroyo or any other government official charged with a criminal case would depend not only on Ombudsman Morales but also on the quality of evidence and prosecutors handling the case.

"The new Ombudsman has a reputation for uprightness, quick action and so forth, so we expect she will [act with dispatch in disposing of cases brought to her office]," Speaker Feliciano Belmonte Jr. said at a press briefing.

In another press conference, Deputy Speaker Lorenzo Tañada III said the target of the administration's anticorruption campaign was not just Arroyo but also other officials who had raided government coffers.

Tañada also clarified that Morales' appointment as Ombudsman was no guarantee that Arroyo and others charged would be convicted.

"I don't think the President has any specific order to go after GMA (Arroyo)," Tañada said of Mr. Aquino's State of the Nation Address on Monday. "What the President mentioned was that [Morales] should do her job based on the evidence presented."

The lawmaker added: "She (Morales) is there to evaluate the evidence. Now it's the duty of the special prosecutors to prove beyond reasonable doubt that indeed anyone who has committed graft and corruption is guilty."

Deputy Majority Leader Federico Romero Quimbo said the President wanted to make sure that the evidence against any government official charged would stand the test of legal procedure by appointing a person like Morales.

Integrity, independence

Quimbo said Mr. Aquino did not categorically say in his State of the Nation Address that Arroyo was behind all the corruption during her administration, but that he wanted to make sure that government people would think twice before engaging in corrupt acts because in her work, Morales had shown probity, integrity and independence.

Dasmariñas City Rep. Elpidio Barzaga Jr. said getting a conviction for Arroyo should not be a barometer of Morales' performance as Ombudsman.

"If the case is not really winnable, we can't win the case, in the same manner that if there is no evidence to establish probable cause, I do not think the Ombudsman would file a case," Barzaga said. ***With a report from Cythia D. Balana***

RIZALizing the Future
• RIZALizing, verb. a continuing process of imbibing, becoming, and carrying out the essence of Rizal

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Anna Bantug-Herrera makes a presentation on how her family, as descendants of Rizal, continues to honor the legacy of their family's "most illustrious member."

PH Embassy in DC hosts forum to honor Rizal's 150th birthday

WASHINGTON, D.C.—The Embassy of the Philippines in Washington, D.C., in cooperation with the Philippine Arts, Letters and Media Council, hosted a forum in commemoration of the 150th birth anniversary of Philippine national hero, Dr. Jose P. Rizal on June 16, 2011.

Philippine Ambassador to the United States Jose L. Cuisia, Jr. welcomed the guests to the forum that featured distinguished speakers: Bernardita Churchill, PhD, retired University of the Philippines professor and president of the Philippine National Historical Society; Anna Bantug-Herrera, The Asia Foundation assistant director and great-great grandniece of Rizal; and Ramon Paterno, retired International Finance Corporation senior counsel and founder, Rizal Day and Youth Awards Committee.

The remarks of Dr. Churchill, *The Vision of Rizal, the First Filipino*, gave a historical perspective of Rizal's actions and gave emphasis on Rizal's call not only for changes in the Spanish rule but also for changes in the Filipino social mindset.

Herrera, a direct descendant of Narcisa Rizal, shared photos of Rizal family mementos including a business card used by Rizal while practicing medicine in Hong Kong and the *tampipi* that served as cover for the smuggled copy of the novel *Noli Me Tangere*. She closed by saying that she will continue *rizalizing* the future.

Paterno shared his passion on learning about Rizal. He discussed Rizal as a Renaissance man and as the first nationalist and why Rizal is named as the country's national hero.

After the presentations, the audience was given a chance to engage the speakers in an open forum. Among those who attended were Filipino-American University students, Filipino teachers, Fulbright scholar in the Philippines and other DC-based Rizal descendants.

The guests were also invited to an exhibit on Rizal at the Asian Reading Room of the Library of Congress. The display ran until June 27. ***(PR)***

Police officer in alleged '04 poll fraud says sorry

By NIKKO DIZON, TETCH TORRES
INQUIRER.NET, PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

MANILA, Philippines—Senior Superintendent Rafael Santiago, the officer who exposed alleged cheating in the 2004 presidential elections, and his men apologized to the Filipino people and to actress Susan Roces, widow of actor and then candidate Fernando Poe Jr. for taking part in an operation meant to ensure that then incumbent Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo won.

"We would like to extend our apology to the Philippine nation, especially to Madame Susan Roces, [for] the error which at this point we are trying to rectify," Santiago said in a press conference at the Department of Justice in behalf of his team.

"We know that our lives are at risk here, our families. We know that we are facing powerful people, but there will be no turning back. The truth shall set us free," Santiago told reporters at a press conference Friday.

Santiago, together with Police Officers 2 Rudy Gahar, Alan Layugan, Rodel Tabangin and Trifon Laxamana and Police Officer 1 Norman Duco appeared before Justice Secretary Leila De Lima and turned over a total of 38 original election returns from Maguindanao, which they admitted to have taken from the premises of Batasan Pambansa in 2005. They did not submit signed affidavits, telling De Lima they needed more time to put the statements together.

But Santiago said that he had no personal knowledge of whether former First Gentleman Jose Miguel "Mike" Arroyo funded the Batasan Pambansa break-ins from January to February 2005.

"I don't have any knowledge but we heard that from a certain person who later, maybe through the effort of the DoJ, will establish that, but as far as personal knowledge, I don't know anything about it," Santiago said when asked about the First Gentleman's alleged participation.

Pressed as to who this person was, Santiago replied: "As I said, we cannot give details of the facts surrounding it because we are refrained by the DoJ until we submit [our] statements."

Justice Secretary Leila de Lima surmised that the series of break-in at the Batasan Pambansa from January to February 2005, which involved Santiago's team, was in "anticipation" of the granting of the petition of Roces to the Supreme Court, sitting as the Presidential Electoral Tribunal, to allow her to take the place of her husband in his electoral protest after his sudden death in December 2004.

The Supreme Court, however, junked Roces' petition and a recount was never done.

7 Filipino troops die, 21 wounded in rebel clash

By JIM GOMEZ
ASSOCIATED PRESS

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—Abu Sayyaf militants killed seven Philippine marines and wounded 21 others who were about to raid their jungle camp Thursday in some of the fiercest fighting this year between the military and the al-Qaida-linked rebels.

About 30 marines maneuvered in stormy weather close to the encampment of about 70 militants in mountainous Patikul township in southern Sulu province, setting off the gunbattle before dawn, regional military spokesman Lt. Col. Randolph Cabangbang said.

A military report, citing intelligence, said at least 13 militants may have been killed in the initial clash and follow-up fighting but troops did not recover any bodies.

The militants were led by Radulan Sahiron, a one-armed commander long wanted by U.S. and Philippine authorities for a string of bombings and kidnappings.

The marines moved overnight on a mission to capture Sahiron, Abu Sayyaf commander Isnilon Hapilon and allied militants belonging to the Southeast Asian militant network Jemaah Islamiyah. The militants were encamped along the slopes of two adjacent mountains, the report said.

Washington has offered $1 million for the capture or killing of Sahiron and $5 million each for Hapilon and Malaysian Zulkifli bin Hir, also known as Marwan, a U.S.-trained Malaysian engineer. He has been hiding in Sulu and is one of the highest Jemaah Islamiyah leaders still at large in the region.

"They were able to the penetrate the camp but the militants were positioned on higher ground, that's why we had casualties," Cabangbang said.

Despite the large number of military casualties, the militants withdrew into the woods after five hours of fighting and government forces captured their hide-out.

The fall of the major Abu Sayyaf stronghold, which is still being searched by troops, was a key victory that came with a steep price, the military said.

"Nothing is free," military spokesman Commodore Miguel Jose Rodriguez said, adding that the marines clashed with veteran jungle-based fighters, who were being pursued by reinforcement troops.

The dead and wounded marines could not be immediately airlifted from the battle zone due to bad weather, Cabangbang said.

Philippine military offensives backed by U.S. training and intelligence have weakened the Abu Sayyaf, which is blacklisted by Washington as a terrorist organization, but it remains a key security threat.

The group is notorious for bombings, kidnappings and beheadings over the last two decades. It is believed to be holding a number of hostages, including two Americans, a Malaysian, an Indian and a Japanese treasure hunter in Sulu, a predominantly Muslim province 610 miles (980 kilometers) south of Manila, and nearby Basilan islands.

The government's Anti-Terrorism Council, meanwhile, has designated the national police to take the lead in the country's battle against terrorism, with the military backing it up, according to documents seen by The Associated Press on Thursday. The decision, made last month, was unrelated to the latest military setback.

Interior Secretary Jesse Robredo, whose department oversees the 120,000-strong police force, said the military would still lead assaults against the Abu Sayyaf in tough areas like Sulu but the police would gradually play a more active operational role in battling terrorism.

Defense Secretary Voltaire Gazmin said the decision will help free up troops so they can eventually switch to their main role of external defense.

AP

Wounded Philippine Marines are attended to by military doctors at a military hospital in Zamboanga city in southern Philippines after being flown in from the volatile southern Philippine island of Jolo Thursday July 28, 2011.

Death toll rises to 41 in Philippine storm

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—Officials say the death toll from a tropical storm that hit the Philippines this week has risen to 41, while 26 fishermen remain missing.

Civil defense chief Benito Ramos said Friday that Tropical Storm Nock-ten left more than 1 billion pesos (about $24 million) in damage to infrastructure and agriculture after sweeping through the northern Philippines.

Regional disaster officer Raffy Alejandro said all the major highways in the hard-hit Bicol region southeast of Manila are now clear of flood waters and debris and electricity has been restored in most areas.

Three coast guard vessels and a helicopter are searching waters off central Masbate province for 19 fishermen from a boat that capsized Wednesday. Another seven fishermen are missing elsewhere.

KUWENTO

Coconuts for cigarettes and the human faces behind the Spratlys dispute

By BENJAMIN PIMENTEL
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

SAN FRANCISCO—Ever since the Spratly dispute became big news in the 1970s, I had always imagined the place as just a bunch of desolate, uninhabited and uninhabitable islands.

Thanks to recent media coverage that has changed.

Finally, we've seen the human faces behind the battle for the Spratlys.

The mission of the Philippine Congress members led by Rep. Walden Bello was unusual and controversial.

But while it annoyed Beijing, and certainly had the feel of a political publicity stunt, it had one clear positive effect: It gave us a glimpse of the people who would be directly affected if war does break out.

The seemingly never-ending dispute that threatens to plunge the Philippines into a war with a much more powerful neighbor is now no longer just about a battle for territory, or resources.

It's about people.

The Spratlys is about Eugenio Bito-onon, the soft-spoken mayor of Kalayaan, whose big dream, as reported by the Associated Press, is to bring Internet connection to his municipality so residents can log on to Facebook.

It's about construction worker Nonelon Balbontin, who unexpectedly found peace on the island. It's about the group of Filipino women, some of them carrying babies, shown an Associated Press photo of life in Kalayaan.

And yes, it's even about the Chinese and the Vietnamese soldiers and fishermen who live in neighboring islands, and with whom the Filipinos of Kalayaan even do business with every now and then.

Their stories were the best parts of the recent coverage, although they ended up being buried in most of the news reports.

There's the part about how Filipino fishermen would barter coconuts for Chinese cigarettes.

There's Mayor Bito-onon's story of how Chinese and Vietnamese soldiers stationed on nearby islands would sometimes fire warnings shots at approaching Filipinos who would then raise their fish on skewers to signal they're just fishing. In response, the soldiers would smile and even signal back to ask if they could have some of their catch.

These human connections are important.

For in this latest flare-up over the Spratlys, one thing is clear: With all the saber-rattling, the chest-pounding, and macho-talking—especially among politicians on both sides—the controversy could so easily spin out of control.

To be sure, the Philippines clearly has a strong case based on international law. And even just a quick glance at the map showing the disputed islands would make one think: 'Whoa, that's a pretty big area, with islands right off the coast of Palawan, that China is claiming!'

But there's more at play here than international law and lines drawn on a map.

The fact that the Spratlys is rich in oil has been noted as a key issue in the dispute.

But it's odd to read statements about 'protecting our oil' from Filipinos eager to defend the Philippine claim. After all, it's usually the few well-connected, and well-financed parties who have typically prevailed in a scramble to exploit an oil-rich part of the Earth.

AP

Unidentified Philippine lawmakers join local residents and military officials in a symbolic unfurling of a banner at Pagasa Island, part of the disputed Spratly group of islands, in the South China Sea located off the coast of western Philippines Wednesday, July 20, 2011.

And with the recent oil spill disaster in the Gulf Coast of the United States, and the worries about climate change—and having been given a glimpse of the beauty of the Spratlys—should we really look forward to this paradise being surrounded by oil rigs and have the prospect of another ecological disaster within the Philippines' exclusive economic zone?

What's most troubling is that, if tensions do escalate, so could the xenophobic rhetoric on both sides. You can already see some of it bubbling up from both Filipinos and Chinese on the Web.

And with our own history of anti-Chinese paranoia, you really need leaders who can assert Philippine sovereignty without stirring up, intentionally or unintentionally, misguided emotions.

There are many recent reminders of how misplaced nationalism can cause serious damage. I've seen them here myself in San Francisco Bay Area as a reporter.

I've written about Croatian, Bosnian and Serbian refugees who fled here to escape the brutal ethnic wars in the Balkans. I've interviewed ethnic Chinese who escaped from the waves of anti-Chinese attacks in Indonesia in the late 1990s triggered by the Asian financial meltdown.

Yes, the Spratlys is about asserting, affirming Philippine sovereignty.

But if we lose sight of what's really important, the dispute could also lead to outbursts of ethnic hatred.

That could happen, if we get misled by reckless talk of dying for the motherland, and dreams of oil riches.

If we forget about those fishermen who are happy to trade coconuts for cigarettes.

Or that local mayor whose big dream is to give his constituents access to Facebook.

Or even those soldiers from supposedly hostile neighbors who would act tough by firing warning shots into the air—and, realizing that the would-be enemy is no enemy, but a fellow Spratly resident, would then smile and jokingly ask a fisherman if they could have a fish or two.

2011 Ramon Magsaysay Awardees announced

MANILA, Philippines—An Indian engineer, a Philippine charity group and an Indonesian social worker are among the winners of Asia's Ramon Magsaysay Award this year for giving green technologies to the poor, organizers said.

Award foundation president Carmencita Abella said the trio had helped harness the technologies to empower their countrymen and worked to create waves of progressive change across Asia.

"Working on critical issues… they are showing how commitment, competence, and collaborative leadership can truly transform individual lives and galvanize community action," Abella said.

The award, often described as Asia's Nobel Prize, is named after former president Ramon Magsaysay, who died in a 1957 plane crash. It aims to honor people who address issues of human development in Asia with courage and creativity.

One of the 2011 winners is U.S.-trained Indian engineer Harish Hande, 44, for bringing solar lights to a country where half of all households have no electricity, the awards foundation said. His Solar Electric Light Co.-India has tapped the sun's energy to light up 120,000 households and is now one of the country's largest solar technology providers.

Indonesian social worker Tri Mumpuni, 46, was recognized after her IBEKA foundation built 60 small power plants harnessing the energy of water stored in dams to bring electricity to half a million people, the awards foundation said.

She was once kidnapped with her husband by former separatist rebels in Aceh province while pursuing her non-governmental group's project to bring electricity to rural Indonesia.

In the Philippines, Dutch marine engineer Auke Idzenga's Alternative Indigenous Development Foundation won for using an ancient, near-forgotten technology, the ram pump, to help impoverished communities on Negros island.

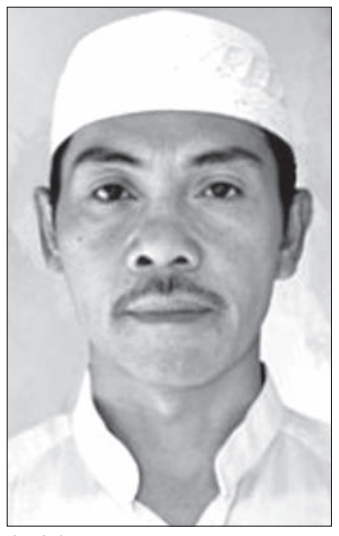
Re-engineered for upland farms, the pump gave the communities clean, cheap water for household use and for raising livestock, fish, and small farms, it said.

A ram pump, which does not need an external power source, harnesses the force of a large body of moving water to pump a small amount of water uphill.

Each year six people or organizations are named joint winners of the Magsaysay award.

This year the other winners were a man who set up an Islamic school for girls in Indonesia, a lender to India's poorest, and a man working to restore democracy in Cambodia after the Khmer Rouge murdered his father.

Hande



Juaini

Panha

Mishra

Mumpuni

The winners are to receive their awards in Manila on Aug. 31.

Below are the awardees:

ALTERNATIVE INDIGENOUS DEVELOPMENT FOUNDATION, INC. (AIDFI), from the Philippines. The organization is being recognized for "their collective vision, technological innovations, and partnership practices to make appropriate technologies improve the lives and livelihoods of the rural poor in upland Philippine communities and elsewhere in Asia."

HARISH HANDE, from India. He is being recognized for "his passionate and pragmatic efforts to put solar power technology in the hands of the poor, through a social enterprise that brings customized, affordable, and sustainable electricity to India's vast rural populace, encouraging the poor to become asset creators."

HASANAIN JUAINI, from Indonesia. He is being recognized for "his holistic, community-based approach to pesantren education in Indonesia, creatively promoting values of gender equality, religious harmony, environmental preservation, individual achievement, and civic engagement among young students and their communities."

KOUL PANHA, from Cambodia. He is being recognized for "his determined and courageous leadership of the sustained campaign to build an enlightened, organized and vigilant citizenry who will ensure fair and free elections — as well as demand accountable governance by their elected officials—in Cambodia's nascent democracy."

NILEEMA MISHRA, from India. She is being recognized for "her purpose-driven zeal to work tirelessly with villagers in Maharashtra, India, organizing them to successfully address both their aspirations and their adversities through collective action and heightened confidence in their potential to improve their own lives."

TRI MUMPUNI, from Indonesia. She is being recognized for "her determined and collaborative efforts to promote micro hydropower technology, catalyze needed policy changes, and ensure full community participation, in bringing electricity and the fruits of development to the rural areas of Indonesia."

Established in 1957, the Ramon Magsaysay Award is Asia's highest honor and is widely regarded as the region's equivalent of the Nobel Prize. It celebrates the memory and leadership example of the third Philippine President, and is given every year to individuals or organizations in Asia who manifest the same sense of selfless service that ruled the life of the late and beloved Filipino leader.

"The Magsaysay awardees of 2011," says RMAF president Carmencita T. Abella, "are five remarkable individuals and an exceptional organization, all deeply involved in harnessing technologies—both hard and "soft"– that can genuinely empower their countrymen and create waves of progressive change in Asia. Working on critical issues that impact not only their respective countries, but indeed, all of Asia, they are showing how commitment, competence, and collaborative leadership can truly transform individual lives and galvanize community action.

"Their concerns are clearly quite diverse—affordable electricity, political reform, inclusive education, economic empowerment, access to water. But there is one thing these Magsaysay laureates share: a greatness of spirit which infuses their leadership for change. They all build collaboration and seek consensus wherever possible. They all refuse to give up, despite adversity and opposition," Abella said.

The six 2011 Magsaysay awardees join 284 other laureates who have received Asia's highest honor to date.

This year's Magsaysay Award winners will each receive a certificate, a medallion bearing the likeness of the late President, and a cash prize. They will be formally conferred the Magsaysay Award during the Presentation Ceremonies to be held on August 31, 2011 at the Cultural Center of the Philippines. ***(Agence France-Presse, INQUIRER.net)***

Alternative Indigenous Development Foundation, Inc

Filipinos 6th biggest foreigners heading to OECD countries

By JEREMAIAH M. OPINIANO
OFW JOURNALISM CONSORTIUM

MANILA—THE Philippines is sixth leading source of migrants going to countries that are part of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development.

OECD's 2011 International Migration Outlook showed that an estimated 161,000 Filipinos that went to OECD-member countries is behind the Chinese (468,000), Romanians (255,000), Indians (226,000), Polish (204,000) and Mexicans (180,000).

The data cover the year 2009, when OECD countries received 3.118 million overseas migrants (Filipinos make up 3.2 percent of the total figure).

The data cover permanent and temporary migration.

The 3.118 million though was lower than the 3.65 million that went to OECD countries, which the OECD said is reflective "of lower demand for workers… for the second consecutive year after a decade of growth".

The decline is markedly seen in Asian OECD countries and in the Czech Republic, Ireland, Italy, Spain and Switzerland.

In contrast, permanent migration to Australia, Canada and the United States increased slightly in 2009.

Temporary migration for work, for its part, declined by 17 percent in 2009 as the said mode of migration was "especially susceptible to shifting demand".

The decline of foreigners going to OECD countries matches with the data from the Philippine Overseas Employment Administration (POEA), the government agency handling labor migration or migration for temporary contract work,

Deployment of new-hire and re-hire overseas workers to these OECD countries declined by 9.34 percent year-on-year —given the 91,083 deployment figure in 2010 and the 101,039 number in 2009.

Major OECD countries of destination that saw a drop in deployment of Filipino workers include: Australia (-16.74 percent), Canada (-19.94), Ireland (-26.73), Korea (-21.24), New Zealand (-7.39), the United Kingdom (-25.27) and the United States (-40.70).

In contrast, Greece (9.42 percent), Israel (10.64), Italy (10.52), and Spain (15.43) experienced deployment spikes in 2010.

OECD countries are mostly destination countries for permanent migration, as most temporary migrants go to Middle East and East Asian economies.

Maharlika–PinoyStyle

Madonna Decena sings backup for Pacman

By BAYANI SAN DIEGO JR.
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

Boxing great Manny Pacquiao and singer Madonna Decena.

It's first class all the way when you're traveling with prizefighter Manny Pacquiao, says singer Madonna Decena.

"We get the VIP treatment everywhere, five-star hotels, first-class food," Madonna says. "We are greeted by cheering fans at every stop. It feels good." It's a far cry from her old life as a struggling singer who worked in a fast-food joint in the United Kingdom to make ends meet.

For YouTube fanatics, she will forever be the single mother from the Philippines who was discovered in the reality show "Britain's Got Talent" in 2008.

Well, Madonna has a new job now, fronting for Pacman's MP band, alongside composer Lito Camo. "It's an honor to work with a living legend [like Manny]," she says. "Lito and I travel with him when he has singing engagements and concerts here and abroad."

Madonna adds that it's a "thrill" to share the stage with Manny, but that it's even more fascinating to watch him in action backstage. "I get to watch the champ… not in the boxing ring but in another arena," she says. "He never gets nervous before a show." Or if he gets a mild attack of cold feet, "he quickly gets over it because he knows that Lito and I are behind him."

In a way, Madonna and Lito are Manny's "security blankets" (think musical Freddie Roaches). No wonder they were also hired to back up Pacman on the new GMA 7 game show, "Manny, Many Prizes." (Lito also composed the theme song.)

The boxer-politician has promised to uplift the lives of Filipinos with the prizes to be handed out on the show; one life he has definitely changed is Madonna's. More than the perks of show biz, she considers her homecoming as the ultimate gift from the Pacman.

"I was able to come home to my [two] daughters," she notes. "He put an end to my days as an OFW (Overseas Filipino Worker). Now I'm based in the Philippines and can be a hands-on mom. Sometimes I even take my kids to work."

Apart from being a YouTube sensation, she is now known as the champ's back-up singer.

"I'm proud of that," she says. "I'm happy to be part of his new game show. We will go on tour and hopefully the champ will be given the chance to change more lives all over the country and in other parts of the world."

She's raring to hit the road again with the Pacman.

"I'm also looking forward to the album we're recording now," she says. "It's produced by the man himself. It's a very special compilation and I hope it will open more doors for me."

Lesson for Aiko: Always stay friends with 'exes'

By MARINEL R. CRUZ
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

Aiko Melendez says she's leaving it to legal counsel Adel Tamano to talk about the details of the libel case filed against her by former boyfriend and Bulacan, Bulacan, Mayor Patrick Meneses.

At a recent media gathering to launch her new afternoon drama show, "Reputasyon," Aiko was asked to shed light on the case that stemmed from her supposed earlier Twitter posts—in which she allegedly questioned Patrick's sexuality.

"In this life, nothing is impossible," Aiko said, raising the possibility of an out-of-court settlement.

Asked if she could ever be friends with Patrick again, Aiko said: "It would probably take a while … we really can't tell."

The 35-year-old actress said she's feeling better now, five months after the controversial breakup.

She's thankful to her former husbands, Jomari Yllana and Martin Jickain, for "lifting me up during times when I was really down."

Jomari is dad to her son Andrei, 13; and Martin, to her daughter Marthena, 5. (Her marriage to Jomari was annulled in 2003. She is awaiting the decision of her 2008 petition to nullify her marriage to Martin.)

"These men were there to fight for me," she told Inquirer Entertainment. "They defended me. They both said 'Aiko would never do anything like that.'"

Fighting depression

One thing she learned from her relationship with Patrick, Aiko said, was that she should always maintain good ties with her exes.

Aiko said she fought depression through prayers and diverted her attention to her kids and work.

"God has been really kind to me," she said. "Shortly after the controversy, I was offered to do 'Maalaala Mo Kaya,' which my bosses said was one of the highest-rating episodes of the show. Then I was told I'd be part of 'Reputasyon.'"

Aiko said she now draws strength from her children. "You get a different kind of joy and contentment from your kids. You may have broken up with two or three boyfriends, but your kids will never leave you. They will remain loyal to you and will stick with you no matter what."

Back in show biz after serving her constituents in Quezon City, Aiko clarified that she did not sign an exclusive contract with ABS-CBN. "I'm free to work with any network but only after I finish 'Reputasyon,'" she explained. "I think being a freelancer is better. You have more control with your career."

"Reputasyon," directed by Jeffrey Jeturian and Mervyn Brondial, also features Cristine Reyes, Rayver Cruz, Jason Abalos and Jaclyn Jose, among others. It airs weekdays after "Happy Yippee Yehey" on ABS-CBN.

For the nth time, Nora Aunor set to fly home

After a number of miscues, Nora Aunor's return to the Philippines is being announced again. On Wednesday, an e-mail from TV5 mentions Aunor's long-time confidante, German Moreno, confirming her arrival on August 2.

The e-mail also quotes the Superstar herself, who has been living in the United States for the past eight years: *"Naka-empake na po ako. Naka-*ready *na lahat.* Excited *na rin po ako makabalik… Sa wakas makakabalik na rin."* ***(Philippine Daily Inquirer)***

DOLLYWOOD

Will Dingdong-Heart 'teleserye' push through?

By DOLLY ANNE CARVAJAL
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

Dingdong Dantes would rather not comment on the raging war between girlfriend Marian Rivera and prospective leading lady Heart Evangelista.

Will the Kapuso teleserye with Heart still push through? "GMA 7 knows best," Dong says. "I'll just follow their orders."

Work is work. And love is love. So Marian shouldn't worry about a thing. Heart is not after Dong's heart.

Real slap

Studio insiders insist that Cherie Gil slapped teleserye costar Jean Garcia in one of their scenes even if it wasn't in the script. Perhaps Cherie just got carried away in the heat of their confrontation. La Vida Contravida is something Cherie has perfected all these years.

No-show

Noranians were disappointed when La Aunor didn't arrive as scheduled last week. Her son, Ian de Leon, is dying to see her after so many years.

"She wasn't able to come home because she still has some obligations to fix," he explains. "But I trust that she will be home soon. As far as I know, her much-awaited movie will push through. Sobrang miss na namin siya ng mga kapatid ko."

What's his fondest memory of his mom? "When Kiko and I visited her in the US in 2006, we did a couple of shows with her," he recalls. "We were able to have a heart-to-heart talk. When it was time for Kiko and I to fly back to Manila, ang higpit ng yakap namin ni mommy na parang ayaw na naming maghiwalay."

How would he want to spend bonding time with his mom when she finally comes home? "I want it to be spontaneous para mas masaya," he says. "I wanna have a candlelight dinner with her and watch movies at home na kumpleto kaming pamilya."

Embracing change

I immensely enjoyed my girl-bonding with good friend Pops Fernandez. After dinner at Serendra, she took me to her fab four-story split-type home which has an Asian motif. It's been a year since she transferred from Alabang and started living alone.

"Surprisingly, it was not hard for me to let go of our house in Alabang," she said. "To think Martin and I and our kids lived there for a long time. There are too many memories. But I guess it has run its full course. We all have to embrace change to keep growing.

"Robin and Ram live on their own. They spend for everything but, of course, as a mom di ko rin sila matiis so I buy them groceries. I'm at peace living alone. My kids visit me often enough since we live close by."

To fans who keep asking me on Twitter (@dollyannec) when Pops would make a TV comeback: "For now, I'd like to venture into producing more shows and concerts," she said. "I have so many nice concepts for a show but I don't have to be in it. The intriga side of show biz has worn me out. I've always been such a private person that's why I don't have a Twitter account and I hardly update my Facebook. I get praning when it comes to social networking (laughs)."

How's her heart these days? "Let's just say I'm inspired," she replied. "That's why I am productive with my various business pursuits on the side. I've never felt so alive!"

RUSHES

A holiday from intrigues

BY THE ENTERTAINMENT STAFF
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

Heart Evangelista explains why she isn't keen on Regal's Metro Manila Film Festival entry, "Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow," which would have paired her with ex-flame Jericho Rosales.

She says she can't handle the intrigues that will surely erupt due to the onscreen reunion.

"I haven't recovered from this latest controversy (her feud with Marian Rivera)," she explains. "I might collapse and break down from the stress. I need a holiday from intrigues."

Boyfriend Brazilian-Japanese model Daniel Matsunaga is her rock, she insists: "I am very secure in our relationship."

Top of the talk shows

■ Claudine Barretto on reconciling with Gretchen: "Siyempre iyakan, tears of joy. 'Yung maraming months na nawala sa 'min, 'di na maibabalik 'yun… So sinabi ko talaga sa sarili ko, hindi na mauulit 'yun. Hinding-hindi na ako papayag na mawala ulit sa 'kin 'yung kapatid ko."

■ David Archuleta on what he missed most about the Philippines: "The fans… and the mangoes!"

■ Michelle Madrigal, asked if Azkals goalkeeper Neil Etheridge was courting her: "No, hindi po. Wala, as in zero!" (Got that.)

■ Rich Asuncion, asked about the possibility of romance with Ervic Vijandre: "Maganda kasi 'yung friendship namin ngayon, sobrang OK." (Was that a no?)

Maharlika – Opinyon

Telltale signs: SONA and the dogfight over Spratlys

By RODEL RODIS
SPECIAL TO THE SAIPAN TRIBUNE

The lustiest cheers that greeted Pres. Noynoy Aquino's July 25 State of the Nation Address came when he declared "*Malinaw ang pahiwatig natin ngayon sa buong mundo: Ang sa Pilipinas ay sa Pilipinas; kapag tumapak ka sa Recto Bank, para ka na ring tumapak sa Recto Avenue*. ("Now, our message to the world is clear: What is ours is ours; when you step foot on Recto Bank, it is as though you are stepping foot on Recto Avenue").

Recto Avenue lies in the heart of Manila while the Recto Bank is located in the Spratly Islands just 80 nautical miles from Palawan province within the 200 mile Exclusive Economic Zone of the Philippines, according to the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea.

The message was loud and clear: If China installs its $900 million oil rig in the Recto Bank, it will constitute an invasion of Philippine territory no less than if it installed the derrick on Recto Avenue.

In his SONA speech, President Aquino informed the Filipino people that "soon, we will be seeing capability upgrades and the modernization of the equipment of our armed forces. At this very moment, our very first Hamilton Class cutter is on its way to our shores. We may acquire more vessels in the future—these, in addition to helicopters and patrol crafts, and the weapons that the AFP, PNP, and DOJ will buy in bulk to get a significant discount. This goes to show how far we can go with good governance; we can buy equipment at good prices, without having to place envelopes in anyone's pockets."

"We do not wish to increase tensions with anyone" he added, "but we must let the world know that we are ready to protect what is ours. We are also studying the possibility of elevating the case on the West Philippine Sea to the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea, to make certain that all involved nations approach the dispute with calm and forbearance."

These passages from PNoy's SONA speech were music to the ears of U.S. based columnists like Ted Laguatan and myself who have been writing about the Spratlys issue for some time while Manila's more renowned columnists have largely ignored it. A few *Inquirer* columnists ventured to comment on the topic but they were generally cynical, dismissive, and disdainful of attempts to defend the Spratlys.

In his June 22, 2011 *Outlook* column, Rigoberto Tiglao described the feeble acquiescence of previous presidents to China's encroachment on the Spratlys. But instead of encouraging spine as an alternative, Tiglao cautions that "this history should emphasize the need to go on a different tack other than that juvenile "just-try-crossing-my-line" dare of the Aquino administration." I guess Tiglao believes the adult would say, "Yes, China sir, cross-my-line anytime."

In his July 22, 2011 *Analysis* column in the *Inquirer*, Amando Doronilla questioned the wisdom of the trip to the Spratlys by five party-list Batasan representatives. "What purpose did the intervention of Philippine congressmen, through their visit to the Spratlys, serve? On the face of it, it was no more than a flag-waving exercise. The Chinese do not respect such hollow gestures." At least these members are visiting their own country instead of the dozens of their colleagues who regularly "intervene" in Las Vegas to watch the Pacquiao fights which Mr. Doronilla does not comment on. Besides, does China respect any Philippine gesture that asserts sovereignty over the Spratlys?

In his July 25, 2011 *Sounding Board* column in the *Inquirer*, Fr. Joaquin Bernas provides a brief history of the Spratlys dispute and arrives at a discouraging conclusion: "Only the UN can settle this controversy authoritatively; but no one wants to accompany the Philippines to the UN." Fr. Bernas, an independent nation is not like a child that needs to be accompanied by a parent or guardian to seek redress at the UN.

In his *Kuwento* column on July 23, 2011, Benjamin Pimentel provides a glimpse of the people who reside in Kalayaan island—"the human faces behind the battle for the Spratlys." He fears that "the saber-rattling, the chest-pounding, and macho-talking" of politicians may spoil the idyllic lives of the fishermen who "barter coconuts for Chinese cigarettes." He expresses cynical contempt for "Filipinos eager to defend the Philippine claim" because he believes "it's usually the few well-connected, and well-financed parties who have typically prevailed in a scramble to exploit an oil-rich part of the Earth."

Even though oil in the Spratlys, according to China's estimate, can generate $50 billion in revenues a year, the possibility that only the filthy rich of the Philippines could exploit it is enough to discourage Pimentel who also dreads "the prospect of another ecological disaster within the Philippines' exclusive economic zone."

I guess we have no choice then but to continue to send our 10 million OFWs to slave away in the Middle East and other countries so they can remit $17 billion a year to fund the development of the Philippine economy. Yes, Mr. Pimentel, a bright future of more coconuts for cigarettes.

But I too don't want to see war break out in the Spratlys. In fact I had a dream the other night about how China and the Philippines could resolve the Spratly dispute peacefully. In my dream, China's top officials realized that while they could easily defeat the Philippines, they feared involving the U.S. and igniting a world war. So they proposed to settle their dispute with a dogfight. The Philippines readily accepted the offer knowing that its lone cutter was no match for China's formidable armada.

The negotiators agreed to give each side five years to develop its best fighting dog, which would then battle to the death with the winner taking undisputed possession of the Spratlys.

China was determined to win at all costs so it assembled its top scientists to crossbreed the humongous Tibetan mastiffs with the meanest Siberian wolves. After five years of pumping their creatures with the most advanced steroids, they finally produced the strongest, most ferocious dog on earth.

On the day of the fateful match, the Filipinos arrived with an odd-looking 10-foot long Dachshund causing everyone in the arena to laugh and feel pity for the Filipinos. After the announcer asked if the dogs were ready to rumble, the Dachshund waddled toward the center of the ring just as China's beast was released from the steel bars of its cage. When the China dog lunged at the throat of his prey, the Dachshund quietly opened its jaws and swallowed the beast whole in one bite. The stunned crowd let out a collective gasp of disbelief.

In shock, China's officials approached the Filipinos, muttering to themselves, "How could this be? Our top scientists worked for five long years to breed an incredible killing machine."

The Filipinos smiled and replied. "Well, for five years, we have had a team of Filipino plastic surgeons from Dr. Vicky Belo's clinic working to make an alligator look like a Dachshund."

Then I woke up, smiling.

Send comments to Rodel50@gmail.com or mail them to the Law Offices of Rodel Rodis at 24529 Ocean Avenue, San Francisco, CA 94127 or call 415.334.7800.

EDITORIAL

Beyond cavil

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President Aquino prefaced his State of the Nation Address with a reference to his most visible accomplishment during his first year: doing away with the use of the police siren, or the wangwang. But the President did his own wangwang in trumpeting his achievements. "We have fought against the wangwang, and our efforts have yielded results," he said, pointing to the drop in self-rated hunger, the rise in business confidence, the upgrade in credit ratings by international investment houses, and the rush of investments in the energy sector.

Perhaps the biggest achievement of his administration on its first year is house-cleaning. He has revamped or abolished agencies, put government contracts under review, held off the salaries and emoluments showered by officials of government corporations upon themselves, and filed cases against alleged grafters. But he himself would be the first to admit he has to go beyond house-cleaning.

Granted that he has been able to fulfill some of his promises, the President must show greater resolve to consolidate the gains his administration claims to have made. For example, he has promised to strengthen the anti-corruption drive to free up more resources for social services and poverty alleviation programs. But he did not provide any broad details of these social service programs, save for saying that the Conditional Cash Transfer program has benefited the poor.

Similarly, he couldn't provide any blueprint for making the tax system more equitable, except for making snide remarks about how the "self-employed" such as businessmen and physicians are paying ludicrously small taxes that go against the popular impression of their profits and income.

Details likewise seem to fail the President as far as his economic program is concerned. While transparency and accountability should underpin all development efforts, it would have been gratifying had the President clearly outlined his economic vision.

In sum the President's second Sona appeared underwhelming and nearly bereft of concrete vision. The good news is that the President still has another year to craft that vision. Sincere like his mother and still enjoying generally warm public support, he must roll up his sleeves and buckle down to work. The public expect more substantial progress on many fronts, beyond wangwang, beyond cavil.

The President's grave sin against OFWs

By RENE Q. BAS
SPECIAL TO THE SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Everything I have written so far about President Aquino's governance and speeches has been positive and even laudatory.

This time I must criticize him and that contributor to the State of the Nation Address who condemned Overseas Filipino Workers. That part of his speech was a grave injustice. The utterances were those of a mean-hearted person that I pray the President is not.

I was an OFW in Hong Kong for two decades. My income supported my parents' household in the Philippines in addition to my own family. I am hurt for myself and for my relatives and friends who are OFWs, some of whom are in Hong Kong and members of the United Filipinos in Hong Kong. The latter issued a press release-statement on Wednesday, July 27, which begins with this paragraph:

"HK Pinoys hit Aquino's 'contempt for OFWs' in SONA: We detest the implication that OFWs chose to serve foreigners instead of their countrymen. We protest the underlying contempt of President Aquino towards migrants who had no choice but to work overseas, separated from our families and communities, because the past and the present administration failed miserably to provide jobs and livelihood and denied basic social services to the Filipino people."

Dolores Balladares, chairperson of the United Filipinos in Hong Kong, made that declaration, reacting "to the insinuations made by President Noynoy Aquino in his State of the Nation Address on Monday, July 25."

This is what the President said in Tagalog:

"*Kung magkasakit ka at makita mo ang nars na nag-aruga sa iyo, sa halip na magserbisyo sa dayuhan kapalit ng mas malaking suweldo, pakisabi rin po, 'Salamat po.'"* (If you get sick and you see the nurse taking care of you, instead of serving foreigners in exchange of a higher salary, please also say 'thank you.')

I was applauding the President most of the time as he spoke on Monday. But I felt the pain that OFWs the world over must have felt when they heard those words.

And the following: "*Bago ka umuwi galing esku-wela, lapitan mo ang guro mong piniling mamuhunan sa iyong kinabukasan kaysa unahin ang sariling ginhawa; sabihin mo, 'Salamat po.'*"

(Before you go home from school, approach the teacher who chose to invest in your future instead of prioritizing her own welfare; say 'thank you.'")

The mentality behind these parts of the SONA is one contemptuous of Filipinos who are working abroad. It presumes that the OFWs are slaving to serve Chinese, Singaporean, Malaysian, Arab, American and European employers because they unpatriotically love themselves more than their fellow Filipinos back home.

The President's sentiments?

Is it one of the speechwriters who has this unjust—and wicked—misconception of Filipinos forced to work abroad to be able to support their wives, children and parents? Or are these President Aquino's own sentiments? I hope Secretary Coloma was just building up the President's image when he told us in the roundtable here at *The Times* on Friday that it was the President himself who actually wrote the speech.

What possessed Benigno Simeon Cojuangco Aquino to utter those words—even if someone else wrote them? Those words condemning OFWs became more painful because they were in that part of the SONA in which the President was asking us Filipinos to turn away from negativism.

This is the translation of what he said in Tagalog:

"Let us end the culture of negativism; let us uplift our fellow Filipinos at every opportunity. Why are there people who enjoy finding fault in our country, who find it so hard—as though it were a sin—to say something nice? Can we even remember the last time we praised a fellow Filipino?

"Let us stop pulling our fellow man down. Let us put an end to our crab mentality. Let us make the effort to recognize the good that is being done.

"If you see something right, do not think twice—praise it."

So why pull down the OFWs?

Other presidents praised the OFWs as heroes. Heroes not only of our economy but heroes also to their children, spouses, parents and other relatives. Now, it seems the President wants us to see our sisters, daughters, mothers who are OFW nurses as people who must be despised because they would rather wash the bottoms of foreigners in hospitals abroad than stay in the Philippines where there are no jobs for them.

This is a grave matter. It is a sin that in Biblical times would have called for the king to put on sackcloth, sit on ashes and pray for forgiveness. The President must make amends to the OFWs. He must explain to them that it is not his policy to treat OFWs as bad persons who must be condemned instead of being thanked and treated with affection.

He and his Cabinet members must reiterate the established official recognition of OFWs as heroes of our Republic and our families.

Samu't Sari

NEW CPA DIRECTOR
Newly confirmed Commonwealth Ports Authority director Manny P. Villagomez, fifth from right, poses with members of the Senate and CPA executive director Edward Deleon Guerrero Thursday night at the Senate chamber in Capitol Hill.

MARK RABAGO

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

CAPE AIR CLEANUP
Continental/Cape Air connection Rota station manager Calista T. Pendergrass, along with her staff, volunteer a full day of manpower assistance to paint and clean the Office on Aging building on Rota on July 27, 2011. This is one of the Cape Air Community Outreach Program to serve the community of Rota.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Continental/Cape Air connection Rota station manager Calista T. Pendergrass and her staff join the man'amko, Office on Aging management and staff during the revitalization of the Aging Building. The Office on Aging is still soliciting more volunteers to extend their helping hands to this ongoing project.

UOG

PINNING CEREMONY
Edward Henry Poppe, IV received his commission as a second lieutenant on July 11, 2011, at Joint Base Lewis-McChord, Washington. The University of Guam graduate completed UOG's Army ROTC program requirements and obtained his master's degree in public administration in 2011. Poppe is pinned by his mother, Dolores Lujan, and father, Edward H. Poppe, III, during the commissioning ceremony. Poppe earned his bachelor's degree from the University of Guam in 2009 and entered into the Senior Army ROTC Program as an Alternate Entry Option Cadet while he pursued his master's degree in Public Administration at UOG. He attended the Leader's Training Course in Ft. Knox, Kentucky in the summer of 2010 and then returned to the University to complete his SROTC requirements. Poppe obtained his master's degree in May 2011; shortly thereafter he attended the Leader Development and Assessment Course at Ft. Lewis, Washington. He finished the UOG Army Senior ROTC Program as an End of Camp Commissionee, having completed two degree programs at the University of Guam and his SROTC requirements. He is the proud son of Coast Guard Chief Petty Officer Edward H. Poppe, III and Dolores Lujan.

BIRTHDAY SHOUTOUTS

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Happy 7th birthday to Queen Anne H. Rectitud! As you grow each year, we see a little more of us in you. Doesn't matter how many birthdays go by, you will still always be your Papa's little girl! We love you so much! Love Papa, Mommy, and Louis!

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Happy 7th birthday Gayle Noreen Vidal. May you have more birthdays to come good health and more blessing. Greetings coming out from your Daddy Nelson, Mommy Grace and Kuya Glenn.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Happy 4th birthday to our Queencessa, Benicia Sablan. Love you always with all my heart! Wishing you the best birthday ever and God bless you always! Greetings come from Mommy, Aunty Linda L., Uncle Dennis N., Daisy Duke (671), Peter and family (671).

Young Style

What's cool for back to school? Mobile tech

By LEANNE ITALIE
ASSOCIATED PRESS

NEW YORK (AP)—What's on top of the school supply list this year? It isn't T-shirts and tennis shoes. It's the other T, for mobile tech.

Kids as young as elementary age are looking for smartphone upgrades, while the college set is sussing out the explosion in tablets, said Craig Johnson, president of the retail consulting and research firm Customer Growth Partners in New Canaan, Connecticut.

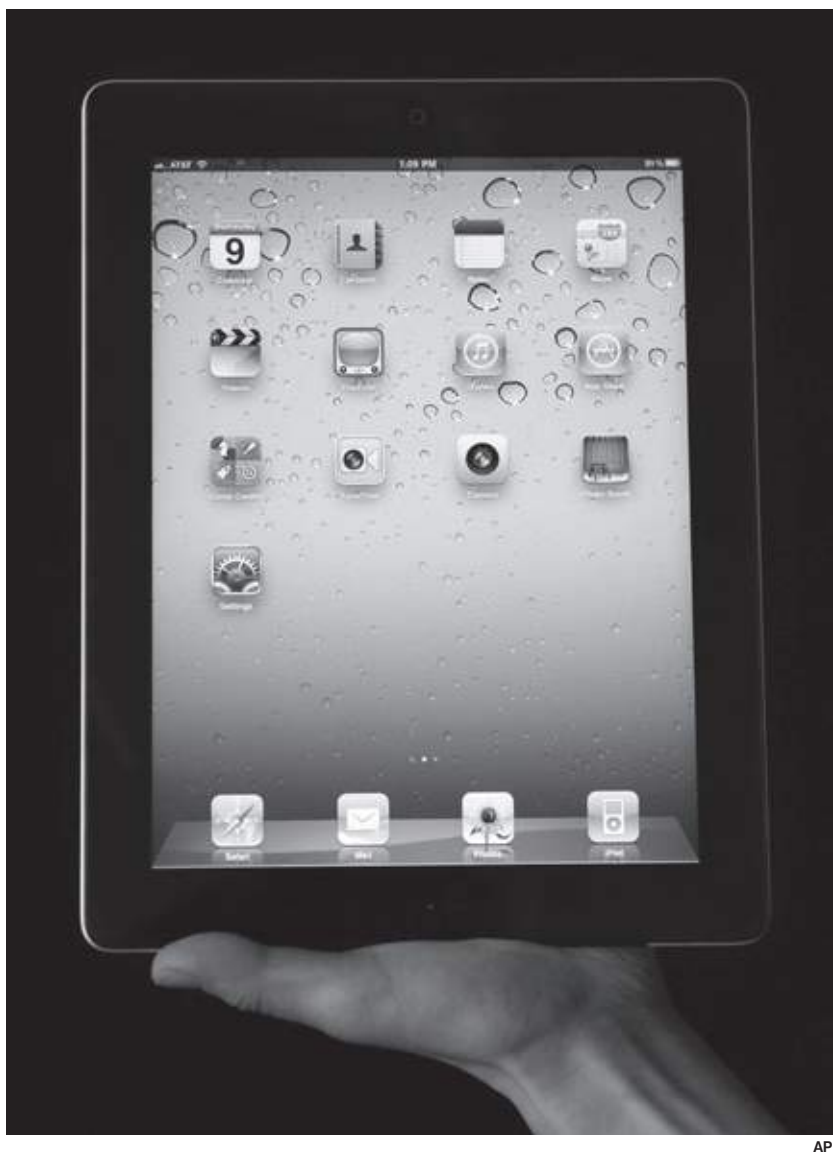
"The single most important thing is the acceleration of technology for back to school. Kids don't get excited about a new lunch box these days, or a new backpack. Cool means technology," he said.

That means e-readers with high functionality like highlighting, underlining, pagination and touchscreens. "All of the features are out now or in the process of coming out," he said.

The new Nook has a 6-inch (15.2-centimeter) touchscreen and crisp, clear print for reading in bright light, tech analyst Andrea Smith told reporters at a recent Consumer Electronics Association trade show. It also indicates how many pages to the end of a chapter and has received praise for long battery life.

Back-to-school tech also means tablets. Once hallowed Apple ground, iPad 2 competitors are everywhere this season. Apple's still the big kid but Android technology is in pursuit. Some of the new tablets run Adobe Flash software, which Apple doesn't have.

In addition to the iPad 2, Smith suggests the 10-inch (25.4-centimeter) Toshiba Thrive for back to school. It runs on Android, has two USB ports and an South Dakota card reader. The new TouchPad by Hewlett-Packard, she said, runs on webOS, has a 9.7-inch (24.6-centimeter) screen and touts easy multitasking among open apps.



AP

This Wednesday, March 9, 2011 file photo shows an Associated Press reporter demonstrating the Apple iPad 2 in San Francisco. Back-to-school tech also means tablets. Once hallowed Apple ground, iPad 2 competitors are everywhere this season.

For analyst Natali Morris, iPad 2 "really is the only tablet on the market that kids are coveting," though she added that some Android technology is good for note-taking and syncing.

Tablets are cool, but are they practical for actual schoolwork? That might have everything to do with the popularity of bluetooth-enabled keyboard add-ons, including the new one Smith and Morris like from Logitech with a case that easily turns into a tablet stand. Toshiba has a keyboard, too, also sold separately.

Morris' picks for student laptops: MacBook Air with an 11-inch (27.9-centimeter) or 14-inch (35.5-centimeter) screen. They weigh as little as 2.3 pounds (1 kilo) and boot up in about five seconds, she said at the CEA line shows in June. Those features are good for students moving from class to class.

Going head to head with MacBook Air for PC-prone students is the sleek new Samsung Series 9, Morris said. It's light, boots Windows in 20 seconds and offers 160-degree viewing for group work.

Christine Mallon, vice president of retail marketing for Staples, agrees that mobile tech is leading the back-to-school drive and creeping onto supply lists for ever-younger kids.

"One of the biggest trends that we've seen is that technology is becoming a school supply," she said. "Kids need laptops, they need flash drives. We're seeing it in a very big way this year."

Flash drives shaped like animals—safari to farm—have taken off, she said. Also look for Tony Hawk-branded skateboard drives this year.

More cool from the supply list:

STUFF THAT WRITES: Pilot's B2P pens (for bottle to pen) are made from recycled plastic bottles and designed to look like one. They're lightweight with gel ink.

"The quality of recycled products has gotten so much better this year," Mallon said.

Animal print pens and erasers are everywhere, including Staples.

Post-it has been putting flags for tagging into the tops of pens and highlighters for a while now. There's a highlighter-pen combo in a three-pack with room for 50 color-coordinated flags on a shirt clip.

Sharpie has gone gel for highlighters for a wider variety of paper, including ink jet, glossy and extra-thin surfaces. Twist the bottom to push up the gel.

Crayola has a box of dry-erase crayons that come with an eraser mitt.

STUFF THAT STICKS: Kids still care about going green, especially when it comes to paper products. Environmentally-friendly sticky paper has come into its own.

Sustainable Earth by Staples comes in 3-by-3-inch (7.6-by-7.6-centimeter) sticky notes that are 50 percent sugarcane fiber and 50 percent recycled paper. Post-it Greener Notes are made with 100 percent recycled materials and a plant-based adhesive.

"A certain amount of excitement has gone out of that because green has become almost a cliche," Johnson said. "It's still a big thing, though, and strikes a chord with a lot of kids."

STUFF FOR PAPERS: Eco-friendly notebooks, composition books and binders abound, if that's your kid's thing.

In the simple reuse category, Pottery Barn Teen sells full-zip, water-resistant fabric homework holders in a variety of tween-girl patterns, from peace signs to zebra stripes. There's a three-ring binder inside and a front zip flap for quick access. Includes an insert for pencils and pens.

AP

This product image courtesy of Staples shows the Quiksilver SurfDrive USB Flash Drive. Flash drives in different shapes, from animals to surfboards and skateboards, have become more popular with kids for their school supply list.

Avery's Style Edge plastic dividers offer a groovy rainbow of translucent bubble tabs.

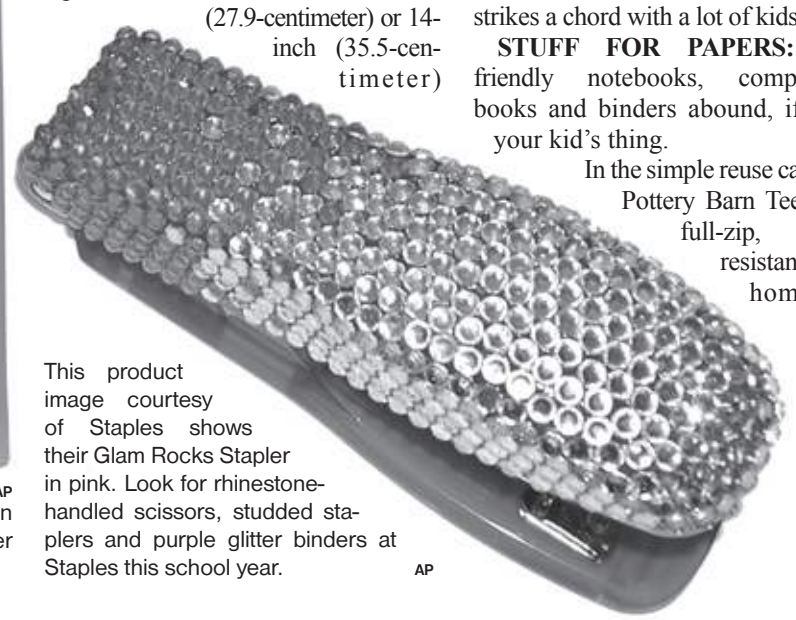
Look for rhinestone-studded scissors, staplers, pens and calculators, along with glitter binders in four colors, at Staples.

Any true re-inventions on the horizon? Watch for Azuna 3D technology on notebook covers, Mallon said. They're available only at Staples.

"It's literally 3D," she said. "It's very, very cool."

AP

This product image courtesy of Staples shows some of their Glitter Better Binders in a variety of colors. Look for rhinestone-handled scissors, studded staplers and glitter binders at Staples this school year.



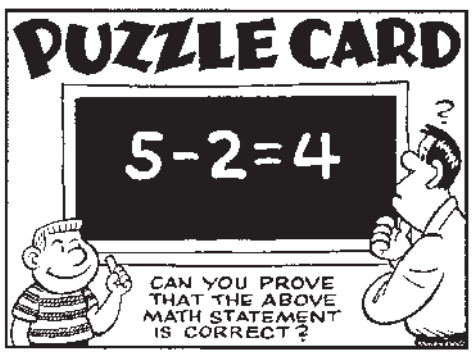
This product image courtesy of Staples shows their Glam Rocks Stapler in pink. Look for rhinestone-handled scissors, studded staplers and purple glitter binders at Staples this school year.

AP

AP

This product image courtesy of Staples shows the Zebra Z-Grip Animals Ballpoint Pens. Animal print pens and erasers are everywhere this school year.

PUZZLE CARD



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Answer: From the word "FIVE," take away the two letters "F" and "E." This leaves you with the Roman Numeral "IV." (5 - 2 = 4)

Junior Whirl

by Charles Barry Townsend

DON'T SCRATCH ON THIS ONE! You have five minutes to pocket the answers to these Ladder Puzzles. In this type of problem, you are given a word that must be changed into another word in a series of moves. On each move, you must change one letter in the previous word to form a new word. In our example, we changed BALK to LINE in four moves.

1. LINE to BACK
2. FANG to BITE
3. LARK to SING
4. MARK to TIME
5. SEND to POST

Answers:
1. LINE, LANE, BANE, BANK, BACK.
2. FANG, BANG, BANE, BATE, BITE.
3. LARK, LANK, LINK, SINK, SING.
4. MARK, MARE, MIRE, TIRE, TIME.
5. SEND, PEND, PENT, PEST, POST.

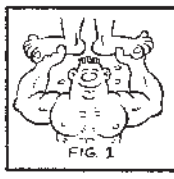

FIG. 1

DOODLE PICS! The two pictures shown here are graphic representations of familiar words, phrases or names. You have one minute to identify both.

BULL

FIG. 2

Answers: 1. Strong undertows. 2. Sitting Bull.

LINK-UPS! Here's a list of 12 short words, divided into two columns. Turn them into six longer words by linking them together. To do this, draw a line from one word in the left column to one word in the right.

1. PRIM	RED
2. SAP	TIES
3. CAPE	ATE
4. IMP	PIER
5. BEET	ROVE
6. JET	LED

Answers: Primate, sapphire, capered, improve, beetled, jetties.

Illustrated by David Coulson

Tips to save money on pet-care costs

DEAR PAW'S CORNER: It seems the cost of pet food has risen, among other things. I have to feed my cat "Barney" a special diet that includes canned food I can only get from my vet. Is there any way I can cut costs on items like this without risking Barney's health?—May K., San Diego

DEAR MAY: There are always ways to find savings in our everyday budgets as well as pet care-related costs. Talk to your veterinarian about the brand of pet food Barney has to eat—is there a comparable product that doesn't cost so much? If you don't get a satisfactory answer, try searching for the pet food by name on the Internet. In addition to the food manufacturer's website where you may find coupons or other places where you can buy it, you may find forums where pet owners share information that could help you save money.

Consumer Reports magazine recently published a series of articles on cutting pet-care costs. The report can be found in the August 2011 issue, or online at http://www.consumerreports.org/cro/magazine-archive/2011/august/money/pet-costs/overview/index.htm.

Here is a brief summary of its tips:

■ If you're buying "premium" pet food, look around for comparable products that cost less, buy in bulk at a "big box" store, or look at store brands.

■ Concerned about veterinary costs? Shop around—check with other vets for their service rates.

■ The vet is no longer the only source of pet medicines: Walgreens, Giant/Eagle, Kroger and Target either have or are testing pet prescription programs.

■ Keep up with preventive care: Schedule an annual checkup and vaccinations at the vet, and perform home health maintenance like feeding a healthy diet, brushing teeth, etc.

■ ■ ■

Send your question or comment to ask@pawscorner.com, or write to Paw's Corner, c/o King Features Weekly Service, P.O. Box 536475, Orlando, FL 32853-6475. Find more pet advice and resources at www.pawscorner.com.

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Strange BUT TRUE

By Samantha Weaver

■ It was 20th-century novelist, literary critic and academic C.S. Lewis, best-known for his series "The Chronicles of Narnia," who made the following sage observation: "We all want progress, but if you're on the wrong road, progress means doing an about-turn and walking back to the right road; in that case, the man who turns back soonest is the most progressive."

■ A year on the planet Neptune lasts about 165 of our Earth years.

■ For reasons that aren't clear, lawmakers in the town of Devon, Conn., once saw fit to outlaw walking backward after sunset.

■ You don't often associate museums with beverages, but it seems that they're fairly popular throughout the world. For instance, museums dedicated to coffee and/or tea can be found in London, Moscow, Paris, Sao Paolo, Zurich and Kyoto, as well as in China, South Korea, Colombia and Angola. Germany has three of them. Coffee and tea must be quite popular in the Netherlands; museums dedicated to the beverages can be found in five different cities there.

■ Are you an ailurophile? If you're over-fond of cats, you are.

■ You probably know that Bill Gates lives in a palatial house near Seattle, but you might not realize quite how big it is. The sprawling home is a whopping 66,000 square feet; the property taxes alone are approximately $1 million per year. It's not unusual to have heated floors, but the Gates' estate has heated driveways. Beats shoveling snow, I suppose.

■ Need another reason to buy food that's grown locally? Studies show that 60 percent of what we spend on food is eaten up by transportation costs.

■ ■ ■

Thought for the Day: "What we think, or what we know, or what we believe is, in the end, of little consequence. The only consequence is what we do."—John Ruskin

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MAGIC MAZE ● WATER WORDS

D	O	L	S	I	S	E	B	Y	V	S	Q	N	K	H
E	B	Y	P	P	W	T	R	O	L	J	G	E	B	Y
W	U	R	L	P	U	N	K	E	I	G	D	B	Z	X
E	V	A	A	S	Q	R	L	O	M	K	I	G	H	E
C	S	A	T	Y	W	K	T	U	Z	S	Q	C	P	N
H	L	R	T	J	N	H	Y	S	T	F	N	E	C	A
Y	X	V	E	I	U	E	S	A	I	E	Q	P	N	F
M	K	J	R	M	K	S	H	F	R	M	S	E	L	L
C	B	P	Z	A	M	N	Y	D	P	P	X	U	I	O
V	S	U	O	T	R	I	U	Q	S	T	S	R	O	O
Q	P	S	O	M	L	R	K	D	I	H	G	E	B	D

Find the listed words in the diagram. They run in all directions - forward, backward, up, down and diagonally.

Boil	Flood	Splash	Spritz
Douse	Immerse	Splatter	Spurt
Drench	Mist	Spray	Squirt
Dunk	Soak	Sprinkle	

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GO FIGURE! by Linda Thistle

The idea of Go Figure is to arrive at the figures given at the bottom and right-hand columns of the diagram by following the arithmetic signs in the order they are given (that is, from left to right and top to bottom). Use only the numbers below the diagram to complete its blank squares and use each of the nine numbers only once.

DIFFICULTY: ★

★ Moderate ★★ Difficult
★★★ GO FIGURE!

	÷		+		2
+		−		+	
	−		×		9
÷		×		+	
	+		÷		8
2		9		6	

1 2 3 5 6 6 7 8 9

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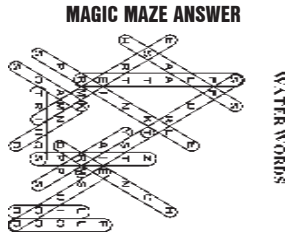
MAGIC MAZE ANSWER



GO FIGURE ANSWER

2	1	+	5	÷	6
	+		−		÷
9	3	×	5	−	8
	+		×		÷
8	2	÷	6	+	7
	6		6		2

Kaleidoscope spins collage of color

I still ride the classic and decades-old merry-go-round on the Santa Cruz, Calif., boardwalk every summer when I visit the beach town of my childhood memories. I throw my head back, hold on tight and let the world spin and swirl past. All the bright, sparkly edges of the day melt together in a collage of color. I have a visual adventure on my carousel horse.

Kaleidoscopes provide children with a merry-go-round adventure in "seeing" that they can make happen themselves. Here's an up-to-date version of that tube of sparkling light you and your young kids can make together.

SAVE a paper towel or mailing tube. Cut a sheet of aluminum foil 1 inch longer than the length of the tube and 1 inch wider than the circumference. Roll loosely, shiny side in. Insert it into the tube, letting it extend on both ends. Carefully unfurl, pressing ends against the outside edges of tube.

COVER the outside of the tube by cutting a sheet of colored Con-Tact adhesive-backed paper or wallpaper the exact length of the tube and 1/2 inch wider than the circumference. Adhere or glue the paper over the outside of the tube, covering the extra foil. Decorate the paper with markers and stickers.

DESIGN a colorful disk by cutting clear Con-Tact paper into two 5-inch-wide circles. Arrange assorted tiny shapes and shades of tissue paper on the sticky side of one circle. (Or, cut a sheet of tissue paper with colorful, small patterns to size, and set on the sticky side.) Top with sticky side of other matching circle. Punch a hole through the center.

CUT a 2-inch piece from a flexible plastic straw with the bendable portion in the center. Tape an end portion of the straw to the outside edge of one end of the tube. Poke the other end of the straw through the hole in the disk and bend the straw piece downward. The disk will cover the tube opening and pivot around the flex straw.

LOOK through the kaleidoscope and give the disk a spin for a merry-go-round of color.

NOTE: Avoid looking directly into the sun when playing with this toy.

■ ■ ■

Donna Erickson's award-winning series "Donna's Day" is airing on public television nationwide. To find more of her creative family recipes and activities, visit www.donnasday.com and link to the NEW Donna's Day Facebook fan page. Her latest book is "Donna Erickson's Fabulous Funstuff for Families."

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Life & Style

Old Spice guy wins out over Fabio

CINCINNATI (AP)—The Old Spice Guy has won his hunk-off with Fabio.

Former football player Isaiah Mustafa has been lead spokesman for the Procter & Gamble Co. brand of men's body washes and deodorants for nearly two years, starring in a popular series of marketing campaigns relying heavily on YouTube, Twitter and other social media.

Now, he has held off a playful effort by the Italian model to become "the new Old Spice Guy."

In a series of videos culminating Thursday, the muscular pitchmen dueled in tongue-in-cheek challenges from one another and viewers. They held staring and whistling contests, bantered and gave advice on writing love letters and working out. P&G says Mustafa won based on consumer feedback such as "likes" and online comments.

They called the competition "Mano a Mano en El Bano" (hand-to-hand in the bathroom).

Mustafa said he wasn't worried, even though Fabio has been "the epitome of the sex symbol as a pitchman."

"Not at all," he told The Associated Press. "There are so many fans that enjoy the Old Spice Guy, there's not really a calling for him to disappear."

Even "the ferocious Ray Lewis," the Baltimore Ravens football linebacker, has taken a recent turn pitching Old Spice products, Mustafa pointed out.

The campaigns started with Mustafa appearing in a shower clad only in a towel and urging women to look at their man, and then back at him. Then followed an online video series, including one in which he suggested President Barack Obama could improve poll ratings among women by opening speeches with Mustafa's "Hello, ladies" greeting.

AP

In this publicity image released by Old Spice, Italian model Fabio, left, arm wrestles with former American football player Isaiah Mustafa during a press event for Old Spice in Los Angeles, Thursday, July 28, 2011.

The campaigns engineered by Portland, Ore.-based agency Wieden+Kennedy won advertising industry awards, boosted Old Spice sales and have been cited by P&G CEO Bob McDonald as a leading example of the power of multimedia marketing.

Brand manager Allison Bolyard said Old Spice will "continue to find a variety of entertaining ways to engage consumers ... we love to surprise our consumers."

Mustafa said he expects to stay on as Old Spice pitchman "as long as people like the character and are having fun with it." Meanwhile, he continues to pursue his acting career in TV and movies including small roles in the current comedy "Horrible Bosses" and next year's "Three Stooges" movie.

Procter & Gamble, maker of consumer products including Pampers diapers, Pantene shampoo and Gillette shavers, is scheduled to report its fourth-quarter earnings Aug. 5.

'Jeopardy!' host recounts encounter with alleged burglar

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)—No one needed to buzz in with a question when "Jeopardy!" host Alex Trebek walked out on crutches at Google headquarters to host the National Geographic World Championship.

"The answer is, at 2:30 yesterday morning, chasing a burglar down the hall at my San Francisco hotel until my Achilles tendon ruptured and I fell in an ignominious heap to the carpeting," he explained Wednesday in the quiz show's signature answer-before-question format.

Lucinda Moyers, 56, was arrested on suspicion of felony burglary and possession of stolen property. She's accused of stealing cash, a bracelet and other items from the room where Trebek was staying with his wife, Jean.

AP

In this June 19, 2011 file photo, television personality Alex Trebek arrives at the 38th Annual Daytime Emmy Awards in Las Vegas.

On Thursday, San Francisco Superior Court Judge Jeff Ross set Moyers' bail at $625,000 and ordered her to stay at least 150 feet away from the Trebeks.

Moyers, in an orange jail jumpsuit, said "yes" when Ross asked if she wanted a public defender. Her arraignment was postponed until Monday.

In a jail interview, Moyers told KGO-TV that she didn't go into Trebek's hotel room and believes she was arrested because of her criminal record or because it was the host of a popular syndicated game show who reported the burglary.

"I haven't done nothing. I haven't gone in his room or nothing. Just like I said that night, 'I wasn't in your room.' And I stick by that. I wasn't in his room," Moyers said.

The public defender's office declined to comment on the charges but "looks forward to conducting an investigation on Ms. Moyers' behalf," said spokeswoman Tamara Aparton.

Trebek, 71, said he snapped the Achilles tendon while running after the woman around 2:30 a.m. Tuesday. He is scheduled to have surgery Friday and is expected to be in a cast for six weeks.

Trebek, who has hosted "Jeopardy!" since 1984, told KNTV he was sleeping at the Marriott Marquis Hotel when he realized someone was inside his room looking through his belongings.

Tortoise's artificial limb came from Ace Hardware

PULLMAN, Wash. (AP)—The artificial limb put on an African tortoise at Washington State University didn't come from a high-tech prosthetics lab. It came from Ace Hardware in Pullman.

The caster-style wheel cost around $7, according to the two veterinarians who installed it on the tortoise after amputating the reptile's damaged left front leg. "We got several sizes to find the right height," said Dr. Nickol Finch, of the WSU veterinary teaching hospital.

The epoxy that attached the wheel to the tortoise's shell was also purchased at Ace, she said.

The 23-pound tortoise, named Gamera, was shown to the public Thursday. The male reptile has become a celebrity since photos of its artificial limb were released Wednesday.

Gamera ate grass and lumbered around the hospital's front entrance as cameras rolled. The tortoise was able to move across pavement, lawn and even bark.

"He's an ATT, an all-terrain tortoise," said Charlie Powell, spokesman for the veterinary hospital.

The tortoise was brought to the hospital in April by its owner, a resident of nearby Lewiston, Idaho. Its left front leg had been severely damaged, likely from a burn, and had to be amputated, Finch said.

Finch, who specializes in exotic animals, and Dr. Courtney Watkins, the surgeon, decided to install the caster-style wheel, similar to what is found on office chairs, as the best chance for the animal to live a long life. The surgery was performed two months ago, but the story is only now coming to light.

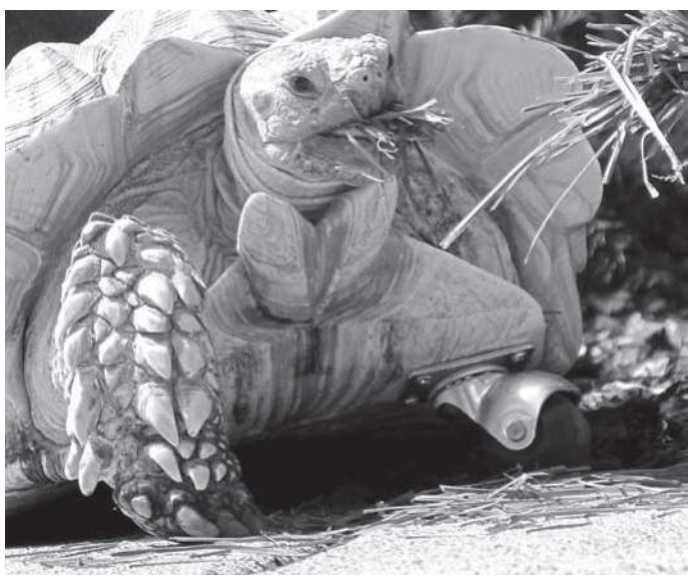
Gamera, named for the Japanese movie monster, moves well now and has been gaining weight. The owner has relinquished the animal to the hospital, where it will likely be used in teaching, Finch said. She said the experience has been uplifting.

"To have an animal come in with basically a death sentence before we took him, and now is moving around and eating like a little pig, is good for the heart," Finch said.

She said this is the first time doctors at WSU have put a wheel on a tortoise, although the procedure has been done elsewhere.

The 12-year-old Gamera is likely to live for decades, and get much bigger, Finch said.

"There's a good chance he will outlive me," she said.



AP

An African tortoise moves across pavement outside the Washington State University veterinary teaching hospital on Thursday, July 21, 2011 in Pullman Wash.

In Celebration of His New Life

JOSE DELEON GUERRERO DIAZ

Familian Badu
April 12, 1940 – July 23, 2011

Was called Home by our heavenly Father on Saturday, July 23, 2011 at Guam Memorial Hospital, Guam at the age of 71 years old.

In his new life he now joins his ***Parents:*** *Antonio Arriola Diaz and Amalia Deleon Guerrero Diaz,* ***First wife:*** *Teresita Blas Diaz,* ***Sister:*** *Ana D. Magofna* ***Brothers:*** *Antonio DLG. Diaz, Candido DLG. Diaz, Vicente DLG. Diaz, Jesus DLG. Diaz, Ramon DLG. Diaz.* ***Brothers - in- law:*** *Pedro Magofna, Marty Taylor,* ***Sisters-in law:*** *Rosalia A. Diaz, Catalina S. Diaz, Joaquina D. Diaz, Magdalena K. Castro.*

His love and memories will live in the hearts of his second wife: Dolores Manalo Diaz,

Sons/Daughters/In laws/Grandchildren: Edward Villanueva (Tina) *Kristen Kalei, Frankilyn, Edward,* ***Debra Amalia D. Teregeyo (Vicente)*** *Joseph Diaz (Verna),Vincent (Sonya);* ***Peter B. Diaz (Mina)*** *Gina , Joaquin, Guadalupe Amalia, Adelaida, Peter Edward II, Jesus, Kathleen;* ***Davie B. Diaz (Kathy)*** *Kimberly (Edwin), Kristy, Kevin (Josepha), Manny Gregory (Mia), Vinceko;*

Elizabeth Cepeda *Adeline Francine (Joseph), Ayessa Nadia (Byron), Elroy Tyrone,* ***Velma M. Del Rosario (Henry)*** *Christopher (Svetlana),Christylynn, Analina;* ***Carleen M. Joseph (Bill)*** *Bill John, Steven Jerome, Doris Marie,* ***Jeremy Manalo (Delight)*** *Raynita , Jeremy Jr., Donnie Vince, Emily Ann &* ***Davie B. Diaz II.***

Great Grandchildren: *Jaedyn, Edwin Jr., Etsuko, Jiro, Wayne, Madison, Vanicia Jeanette, Teresita Juliette, Ayden Joel, Scott Raymond, Elikristianah & Londan Christopher.*

Brother/Sisters & in-laws: *Juan DLG. and Carmen M. Diaz, Isabel D. & Luis Cabrera, Maria D. & David P. Rios, Celina D. Taylor, Carmen D. & Charles P. Crites, Josie Diaz, Cecelia Camacho, Bernice P. Diaz*

Aunt: *Carmen DLG. Delos Reyes*

and numerous loving nieces, nephews, cousins, godchildren and friends.

Nightly mass is at 6:00pm and rosary at 7:00 pm at San Antonio Church.

On Monday, August 01, 2011 Family Viewing will be at CHC Morgue from 7:00 am to 8:15 a.m. and our beloved will be escorted from CHC morgue to Mt. Carmel Catherdral at 8:30 a.m., viewing and last respect will be held from 9:00 a.m. until 10:30 a.m. Mass of the Christian Burial will be celebrated at 11:00 am. Interment will be at the Mt. Carmel Catholic Cemetery following the mass.

Lady Gaga to release book of photographs

NEW YORK (AP)—Lady Gaga will release a book of photographs with fashion photographer Terry Richardson.

Grand Central Publishing announced Thursday that it will release the book, "Lady Gaga," on Nov. 22. The publisher said the book will include more than 350 color and black-and-white photographs of Gaga.

Richardson followed the singer for 10 months between Aug. 2010 and Feb. 2011. That time period includes Lady Gaga's Monster Ball tour and the recording of her album "Born This Way."

Lady Gaga will write the book's forward.

On Thursday, the pop star surpassed 12 million followers on Twitter.

AP

A billboard showing an original wedding photo of Zsa Zsa Gabor and Prince Frederic von Anhalt is seen on Sunset Blvd. in West Hollywood, Calif., Thursday, July 28, 2011.

Gabor's husband puts up 25th anniversary billboard

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Zsa Zsa Gabor's husband is saying happy anniversary in a big way. Frederic Von Anhalt has taken out a billboard on Sunset Boulevard in Los Angeles to celebrate the couple's 25th wedding anniversary. Beside the couple's wedding photo, it reads, "Prince Frederic & Princess Zsa Zsa 25 years and counting." It also includes Von Anhalt's website.

Gabor and Von Anhalt were married August 14, 1986.

He said the billboard is an anniversary gift for his ailing 94-year-old wife, who smiled when she saw a picture of it on TV.

"She said, `Oscar de la Renta,'" Von Anhalt said Thursday, adding that she is wearing a dress by the designer in the photo on the billboard. "It was her favorite dress, and she looked at it and she remembered it."

Von Anhalt said he spent his "life savings" on the $68,000 billboard, which will be up for one month.

"The billboard was very expensive," said the 68-year-old, who says he is a German prince. "I just put my life savings in it. I said forget about tomorrow. I want to do it today. I want to do it for her."

"Being married to Zsa Zsa these 25 years, it's priceless," he continued. "What she gave to me, the things we did together, the happy life we had together, you can't pay for it with money. It was perfect. It was just perfect and we're going to go on."

Gabor has been hospitalized repeatedly over the past year and had her leg amputated in January. Von Anhalt said she remains bedridden at home.

"It didn't get better or worse," he said. "Every day is a gift from God when you're 94 and have been through all those things. We make the best out of it and make it as comfortable as possible for her."

He said that he is planning an anniversary party at the couple's Bel-Air home next month. Gabor wants to see some friends, he said, who will be allowed to visit her in her bedroom one at a time.

Von Anhalt said his wife will have her hair and makeup done for the party: "She can't get out of bed, but I want her to look beautiful."

Linda Ronstadt to write memoir

NEW YORK (AP)—Linda Ronstadt broke barriers for women as one of the top-selling artists of her generation, and she's going to detail how she did it in a new memoir for Simon & Schuster.

The book publisher announced Thursday that it had acquired her autobiography, titled "Heart Like a Wheel," after her Grammy-winning, multiplatinum album.

In a statement, Simon & Schuster said: "Few singers have been as wide-ranging or distinctive in their artistry."

Ronstadt sold tens of millions of records starting in the 1970s with pop hits like "You're No Good" and "When Will I Be Loved." But she also segued into country, pop standards and mariachi music, among other genres.

She also had high-profile romances with California Gov. Jerry Brown and George Lucas.

The book is due in 2013.

SHOWBIZ TIDBITS

Belafonte says Obama lacks moral courage, vision

BEVERLY HILLS, Calif. (AP)—Singer and activist Harry Belafonte says President Barack Obama and his "mission" have failed because of a lack of moral courage and vision. The president is "not a stand-alone," Belafonte said Thursday. Regarding the debt-ceiling crisis, Belafonte said he would ask Congress, the president and other U.S. institutions of power "what happened to moral truth" and moral courage. Belafonte made his remarks to the Television Critics Association while discussing "Sing Your Song," a documentary about him airing this fall on HBO. The 84-year-old singer, known as the King of Calypso, has pushed for political and social change since the U.S. civil rights movement. He hopes the documentary will illuminate a time when Americans faced problems and found the resources to face them, Belafonte said. "Sing Your Song" debuts Oct. 17.

Vogue's Grace Coddington telling her story

NEW YORK (AP)—Grace Coddington's story from the front row of fashion will be told in a memoir. The book by Vogue's creative director with be written with Vanity Fair style editor-at-large Michael Roberts, a friend and colleague. The as-yet-untitled book will be published in the U.S. and Canada by Random House, and in the United Kingdom by Chatto and Windus, Random House announced Thursday. In "The September Issue," the 2009 behind-the-scenes documentary about Vogue, Coddington was seen as both the right hand of editor-in-chief Anna Wintour and as the free spirit who would sometimes challenge Wintour. The book will also cover Coddington's life as a child in England during World War II and her role in London's swinging `60s style scene, as well as her insight into the insider world of fashion.

Country Hall of Fame kicks off expansion campaign

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (AP)—The Country Music Hall of Fame and Museum is off to a fast start in its $75 million expansion campaign. Officials said Thursday as they kicked off a public fundraising campaign that they've already received more than $56 million in commitments for an expansion that will more than double the size of the hall of fame. They announced plans to add more than 200,000 square feet of exhibit, classroom and archival space and an 800-seat theater. When complete, the museum will be connected to the new Nashville convention center project across the street. Alan Jackson and Ricky Skaggs helped kick off the campaign with music and Ford Motor Co. chairman Bill Ford and Nashville Mayor Karl Dean made appearances. Officials also announced that hall of fame board chairman Steve Turner kicked off contributions with a $6.5 million gift.

Alaska Coast Guard members featured in new show

KODIAK, Alaska (AP)—There's another reality TV show set in Alaska in the works. The Weather Channel has announced it will produce a new series featuring Coast Guard rescue swimmers and pilots stationed on Kodiak Island. The Kodiak Daily Mirror reports there will be seven, one-hour episodes, with the first to air Nov. 9. The show, tentatively called "Coast Guard Alaska" will feature dramatic rescues and focus on the training and preparation of the Guardsmen. It will also follow members of the Coast Guard during their off-duty hours. Crews previously shot material in Kodiak and Cordova, and will return to Kodiak to film material for additional episodes.

Oscar-nominated art director Polly Platt dies

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Polly Platt, who was nominated for an Oscar for art direction for "Terms of Endearment" and went on to produce several successful films, has died. She was 72. Sashy Bogdanovich says her mother died Wednesday in New York of Lou Gehrig's disease. Platt starting working in movies with her husband, writer-director Peter Bogdanovich. She continued in film after the couple divorced in 1971 and went on to produce "Broadcast News," "War of the Roses" and "Say Anything" through a long collaboration with James L. Brooks and Gracie Films. Platt was born in Fort Sheridan, Ill., in 1939. She studied art at Carnegie Mellon University before moving to New York, where she met Bogdanovich while working as a set designer. She is survived by two daughters and three grandsons.

Childhood assaults continue to haunt high school senior

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby

DEAR ABBY: I'm a 17-year-old female senior in high school. I was coerced into sex when I was 12 by a 19-year-old neighbor. He raped, molested and beat me repeatedly for two months. I come from a religious family. I was very sheltered and didn't understand most of what was happening at the time. It wasn't until I had Sex Ed that year that I fully understood.

Mom had always told me not to let anyone touch me because it was dirty and wrong. I felt guilty because I knew "something" was wrong. When I told my neighbor about the guilt, he taught me how to cut myself using a razor blade. I never told my family (or anyone else, for that matter) about what had happened to me, and I continued cutting until last year when my mom found out. I have been in and out of counseling since then.

I have horrible nightmares nearly every night. I relive memories of him beating me, molesting me and raping me. The nightmares are getting worse, and I'm falling asleep during the daytime. I don't know how to make them stop. Abby, can you help me?

NIGHTMARES IN WICHITA, KAN.

DEAR NIGHTMARES: None of what happened was your fault. You were a child and that neighbor was an adult who took advantage of your youth and inexperience. The feelings you're experiencing are not unusual for rape victims—fear, anger, shame, guilt, loss of power and isolation.

If you will make a police report, it will help you to regain a sense of control. It may also prevent other children from being victimized by this monster. If possible, ask to talk with a female police officer—although many police departments provide special training to all their officers so victims are treated in a sensitive and caring manner.

Being able to give voice to your feelings will go a long way toward making your nightmares go away. It will help you immensely if you'll talk with a professional counselor at a rape treatment center or crisis center. For you, that would be the Wichita Area Sexual Assault Center. Its 24-hour toll-free number (for Kansas residents only) is (877) 927-2248. The website is www.wichitasac.com. Please don't wait. People there will help you if you'll give them a chance.

■ ■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: My father passed away a few months ago and something has been bothering me ever since his funeral. Some of my co-workers attended the viewing and the service. I do not care for any of them and I believe they showed up because they were nosy about my personal business. I share none of it with them in the office.

Now my mother is very ill. I don't know how I'll handle it if these people show up at my mother's eventual service. I think this is an invasion of my and my family's privacy, and I get sick to my stomach at the thought of them coming.

Is there anything I can do or say to let them know they're not welcome? One woman regularly attends funerals for people she doesn't know.

PRIVATE PERSON, ONTARIO, CANADA

DEAR PRIVATE: Yes, there is something you can do. When the notice of your mother's death is published in the newspaper, it should be stated that her funeral service will be private. The time and place should not be mentioned, and should be communicated verbally only to those you would like to attend.

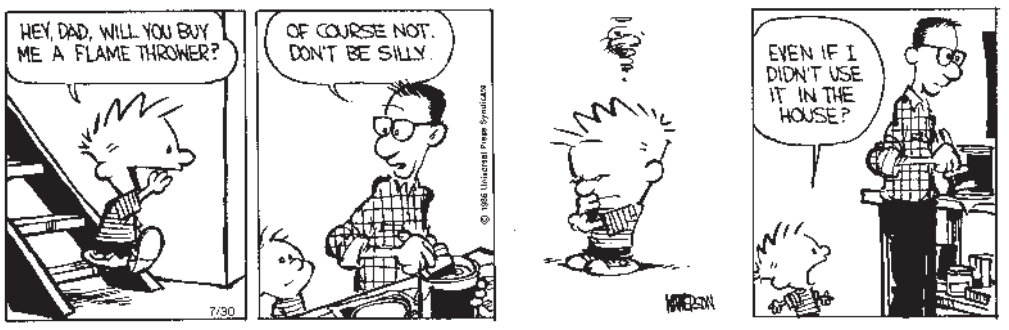
Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

What teens need to know about sex, drugs, AIDS and getting along with peers and parents is in "What Every Teen Should Know." To order, send a business-sized, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for $6 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby—Teen Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Postage is included in the price.)

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson

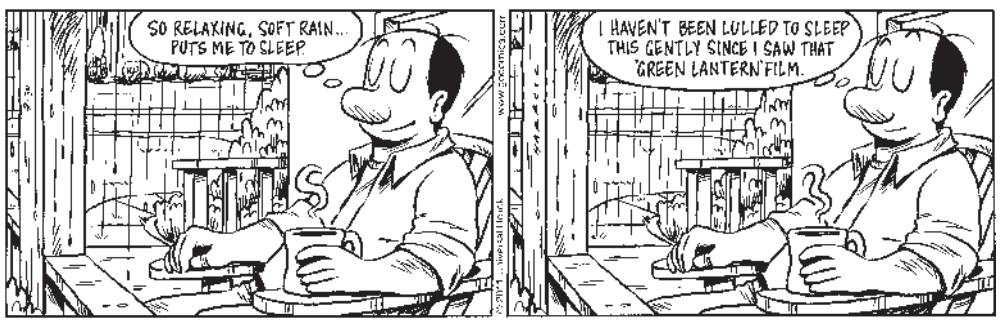


Garfield®

By Jim Davis

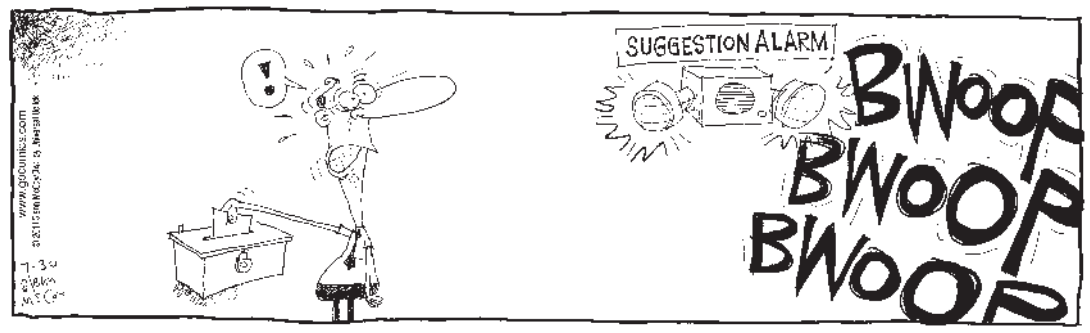
Adam@home

By Bryan Basset



The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 "— Fiction"
5 Eschew
9 English channel?
12 One side of the Urals
13 Jamboree structure
14 "Go, team!"
15 Stagger
16 St. Louis landmark
17 Carte lead-in
18 Large barrel
19 Cattle call?
20 Hide
21 Reuben holder
23 Man-mouse link
25 Easy mark
28 Took it easy
32 Mountain nymph
33 Pale blue shade
34 Used a hoe
36 Avuncular Addams
37 English cathedral city
38 Baton Rouge sch.
39 Locks
42 Aye opposer
44 Egg container
48 Moreover
49 Bleacher-ites' choreography
50 Swindle
51 Shad product
52 Eastern potentate
53 Vicinity
54 "CSI" evidence
55 Employer
56 Loud, mournful cry

DOWN

1 Crony, out West
2 Addict
3 Stead
4 Expert in life lines
5 Pollen-making organ
6 Long sandwich
7 Square
8 To the — degree
9 Highland hillside
10 Event for Cinderella
11 Conversation
20 A week before Easter
22 Mountain air?
24 Kentucky Derby award
25 "Wham!"
26 Anger
27 "Golly!"
29 Gob
30 Supplement, with "out"
31 Aachen article
35 Very energetic one
36 Handbills
39 Difficult
40 Unsigned (Abbr.)
41 Concept
43 Hertz rival
45 Modern-day money
46 Gush forth
47 Bluish-green color
49 Symbol of intrigue

Solution time: 27 mins.

P	E	A		B	A	S	E		S	H	A	G
I	V	S		T	V	I	L		C	O	V	T
T	A	P	E	D	E	C	K		R	U	I	N
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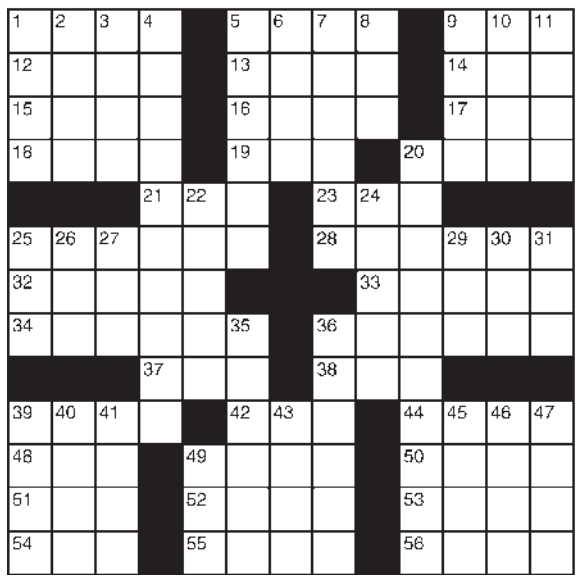
Yesterday's answer 7-30



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955!** 99¢ per minute. touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Hilary Swank, 37; Lisa Kudrow, 48; Laurence Fishburne, 50; Arnold Schwarzenegger, 64.

Happy Birthday: Live, love and laugh. This is a good year to have fun, but if you overdo it you will meet with complaints and opposition. Make sure you get everything on your to-do list out of the way before you take a break. Gauging your time between work and play will determine your success this year. Your numbers are 2, 6, 14, 24, 27, 35, 44.

ARIES (*March 21-April 19*): Good fortune will be yours if you take action. Don't sit back if you see something you want or someone you want to get to know; make the first move. Seize the moment and you will be able to make life changes that are overdue. Love is highlighted. ✪✪✪✪

TAURUS (*April 20-May 20*): Your need to discuss your feelings will not go over well. You will have a better rapport with people if you participate in social activities and put anything that is bothering you on hold today. A trip or a lifestyle change will improve your emotional well-being. ✪✪✪✪

GEMINI (*May 21-June 20*): Pleasure trips will encourage exciting new connections and will get you involved in events that allow you to show off your talents. Put the past behind you and move on. The best is yet to come. ✪✪✪

CANCER (*June 21-July 22*): Consider what you can do to get ahead. Picking up skills or taking a course that will help you diversify should be on your agenda. A change is long overdue, but you must be smart and not overestimate the possibilities. Do your research. ✪✪✪

LEO (*July 23-Aug. 22*): Travel, learning and delving into new projects will satisfy your desire for change. Getting together with people who share your interests will help you develop a game plan. Love is highlighted and can be fulfilled as long as you don't go over budget. ✪✪✪

VIRGO (*Aug. 23-Sept. 22*): Get some rest rather than taking on a multitude of tasks that really aren't your responsibility. It's time to look at your past and decipher what you have left out or still want to pursue. ✪✪✪

LIBRA (*Sept. 23-Oct. 22*): Focus on the good things in life and the friends who give the most in return. Love is in the stars, and making a statement that will enhance your relationship with others should be your intent. ✪✪✪✪

SCORPIO (*Oct. 23-Nov. 21*): You'll face opposition no matter what you decide to do. Cut your losses and do what's best for you. Let down lightly those who don't fit into your plans and move forward. ✪✪

SAGITTARIUS (*Nov. 22-Dec. 21*): You can make some prominent alterations to your life that will help you out financially, legally or medically. Do what is required to improve your situation without hesitation. Love is on the rise. ✪✪✪✪✪

CAPRICORN (*Dec. 22-Jan. 19*): Don't neglect the ones you love. Family or your lover will need your undivided attention,

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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and the results you get for giving your all will in turn bring you satisfaction, comfort and a better future. ✪✪✪

AQUARIUS (*Jan. 20-Feb. 18*): Tell your partner how you feel about your relationship, if you are in one. If you are single, get out and mingle with other singles. Enjoying time with people who share your interests will help you feel secure and lead to personal improvements. ✪✪✪

PISCES (*Feb. 19-March 20*): Honesty will play a role in whatever you do. Keep conversations open, and don't be afraid to make changes. Doing what everyone else wants isn't being true to you. Before you move forward, make sure the path you take is in tune with what you want out of life. ✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are outgoing, emotional, decisive and willing to take on anything that gets in your way.

Eugenia's Web sites: ***eugenialast.com*** *for confidential consultations,* ***myspace.com/eugenialast*** *for Eugenia's blog,* ***astroadvice.com*** *for fun*

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

			9		6			
	1	6				8	4	
	4						6	
4			5		2			6
				9				
2			3		1			9
	6						8	
	5	2				1	9	
			7		4			

Difficulty Level ★★★★ 7/30

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer

3	2	9	5	7	8	6	1	4
1	5	8	2	4	6	3	7	9
4	7	6	9	1	3	5	2	8
9	1	5	4	8	7	2	6	3
7	3	4	6	5	2	8	9	1
6	8	2	3	9	1	4	5	7
2	4	7	8	6	9	1	3	5
8	9	3	1	2	5	7	4	6
5	6	1	7	3	4	9	8	2

Difficulty Level ★★★★ 7/29

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD. The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

JENNIFER LOPEZ — Solution: 8 letters

I	G	D	S	A	D	N	O	C	A	N	A	N	T	Z
A	L	E	I	R	B	A	G	N	H	T	L	R	I	G
Z	Y	G	R	A	R	Y	A	N	K	A	E	C	G	J
E	L	U	I	T	M	I	A	H	N	C	R	E	E	E
U	I	I	L	G	R	C	G	T	N	A	O	L	W	R
Q	M	T	O	A	I	U	H	A	M	P	M	L	I	S
R	A	A	V	R	O	O	D	A	U	M	U	K	B	E
A	F	R	E	N	N	N	X	E	A	S	N	C	T	Y
M	R	M	E	Y	W	I	R	N	E	O	I	A	H	A
A	A	U	J	O	M	T	H	R	M	U	Z	J	N	I
N	L	L	T	I	O	A	E	U	M	T	I	I	L	B
G	O	Y	L	N	T	P	B	N	E	H	L	O	R	E
E	L	I	N	T	E	L	E	C	N	U	D	A	G	C
L	A	E	A	D	A	V	A	R	A	I	V	H	T	A
N	A	N	E	D	A	S	A	P	A	E	S	Y	L	F

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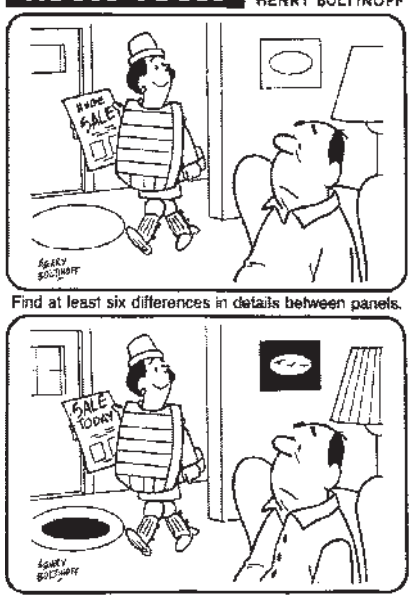
Album, American, Anaconda, Angel, Anthony, Antz, Ariana, Azteca, Block, Brave, Charlie, Dancer, Emme, Enough, Eyes, Face, Family, Fly, Gabriela, Gertrude, Gigli, Girl, Glee, Guitar, Idol, Jack, Jersey, JLo, Love, Lynda, Maid, Manhattan, Marc, Marquez, Maximilian, Muniz, Opera, Pasadena, Paulina, Puchi, Puerto, Ryan, South, Sweet, Tennis, Town, Ventura

Yesterday's Answer: Investments

HOCUS-FOCUS

BY HENRY BOLTINOFF



Find at least six differences in details between panels.

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Differences: 1. Picture is different. 2. Lampshade has stripes. 3. Rug is different. 4. "Sale" wording has been changed. 5. Shirt has buttons. 6. Window is different.

Wishing Well®

7	2	8	2	7	2	5	7	5	3	6	7	5
J	E	S	V	O	E	B	Y	E	O	A	I	T
6	3	2	3	5	3	7	6	2	6	5	6	5
C	N	N	C	R	O	S	C	T	O	U	R	E
3	4	5	6	4	8	6	2	7	6	7	5	8
U	B	T	D	E	P	W	F	Y	I	O	O	E
7	4	3	5	8	3	2	4	2	7	5	6	3
U	C	R	Y	N	S	U	A	L	R	O	T	E
5	7	4	6	8	6	4	2	5	2	6	2	5
U	S	U	H	D	N	T	M	R	E	A	E	S
2	3	5	2	5	8	6	8	3	6	5	3	6
T	A	E	I	L	W	T	I	G	U	F	A	R
8	3	8	2	3	2	4	6	4	8	4	8	4
S	I	E	N	N	G	I	E	O	L	U	Y	S

HERE IS A PLEASANT LITTLE GAME that will give you a message every day. It's a numerical puzzle designed to spell out your fortune. Count the letters in your first name. If the number of letters is 6 or more, subtract 4. If the number is less than 6, add 3. The result is your key number. Start at the upper left-hand corner and check one of your key numbers, left to right. Then read the message the letters under the checked figures give you.

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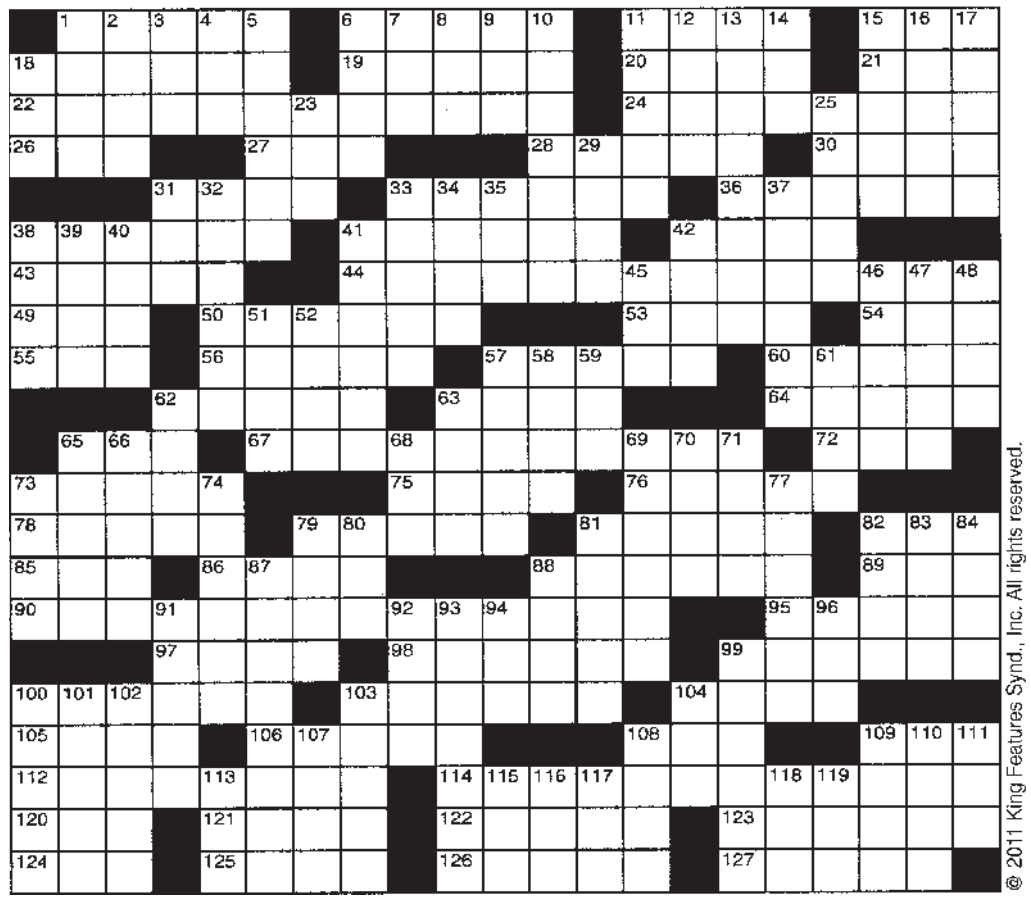
Super Crossword

WAYNE'S WORLD

ACROSS
1 Big bargain
6 Carpentry device
11 Diplomacy
15 Sault __ Marie, MI
18 Fill with fizz
19 "Bolero" composer
20 Return address?
21 Pallid
22 Frequent Wayne co-star
24 Film directed by Wayne
26 Wayfarer's whistle wetter
27 Thrill
28 Troubles
30 Pianist Gilels
31 Word with car or pea
33 Muhammad's daughter
36 Commotion
38 Tune
41 Small mall
42 Bearing
43 Faced the day
44 Wayne's birth name
49 __ Grande
50 Plot
53 Facilitate a felony
54 Poetic preposition
55 Makes one's mark
56 Tortellini topping
57 Fretful
60 Songwriter Greenwich
62 Jean of "Upstairs, Downstairs"
63 "__ Sorry Now" ('58 hit)
64 Gossip material
65 Numbers man?
67 Wayne's final film
72 Went jogging
73 Maestro Zubin
75 "Braveheart" costume
76 Fielder's equipment
78 Yale or Root
79 Corn
81 Simon's "Plaza __"
82 Rascal
85 Out of sorts
86 Restaurateur Toots
88 Seat cover?
89 Actress Peggy
90 Oscar-winning Wayne role
95 Hugh of "Small Time Crooks"
98 Egg evaluation
99 Rich soup
100 Insist
103 Lost one's tail?
104 A shake in the grass?
105 "Star Trek VI" actress
106 Bendix role
108 Tease
109 Spigot
112 Frequent Wayne director
114 Wayne's role in "The Searchers"
120 Rink legend
121 New York city
122 Shortstop Pee Wee
123 Volcanic state
124 Comedian Louis
125 Actor Epps
126 A la King?
127 Proficient

DOWN
1 Navy warrior
2 "__ Colors" ('86 hit)
3 Teacup part
4 Tackled a taco
5 Margin
6 Singer Sheryl
7 __-di-dah
8 Palindromic name
9 "Mal de __"
10 Luciano's colleague
11 Neon __
12 Flu symptom
13 __ cat
14 Shelley's "__ Skylark"
15 Okefenokee, for one
16 Indian tongue
17 "__ Gay"
18 Internists' org.
23 "__ if I can help it!"
25 Tea of "The Naked Truth"
29 Prayer finale
31 __ Cob, CT
32 Forsyth's "The __ File"
33 Surround a Seurat
34 "God's Little __" ('58 film)
35 Skater Babilonia
37 Olympian Al
38 "You Bet Your Life" emcee
39 Part of HOMES
40 Author Anita
41 Don of "Cocoon"
42 Melville title start
45 "Nowhere __" ('66 hit)
46 Actress Diamond
47 Sky stalker
48 __-do-well
51 Supermarket vehicle
52 "Be quiet!"
57 Complete
58 Night noise
59 Relative of -ator
61 Tempt
62 School subject
63 Crackerjack
65 Casals' instrument
66 Detective Vance
68 Emulate 102 Down
69 Exotic pet
70 Lingerie item
71 Shopper's sack
73 Golda of Israel
74 Darcy's creator
77 "The Aeneid" author
79 Mindy's mate
80 Circle section
81 Fathered a foal
82 Neighbor of Jordan
83 Waiter's offering
84 Fancy appetizer
87 TV's "Max __"
88 Teen title
91 Proust protagonist
92 Eye appreciatively
93 Cheeseboard choice
94 "__ Girls" ('79 smash)
96 Pretoria's loc.
99 "The Enlightened One"
100 Mustard city
101 Atlanta campus
102 Athlete Phil
103 More advanced
104 Rush
107 Role for Shirley
108 Patella's place
109 Kisser
110 Mine feature
111 Pressure meas.
113 To and __
115 Pigskin prop
116 "Tell __ About It" ('83 song)
117 "__ see it ..."
118 Gum gob
119 Overwhelm



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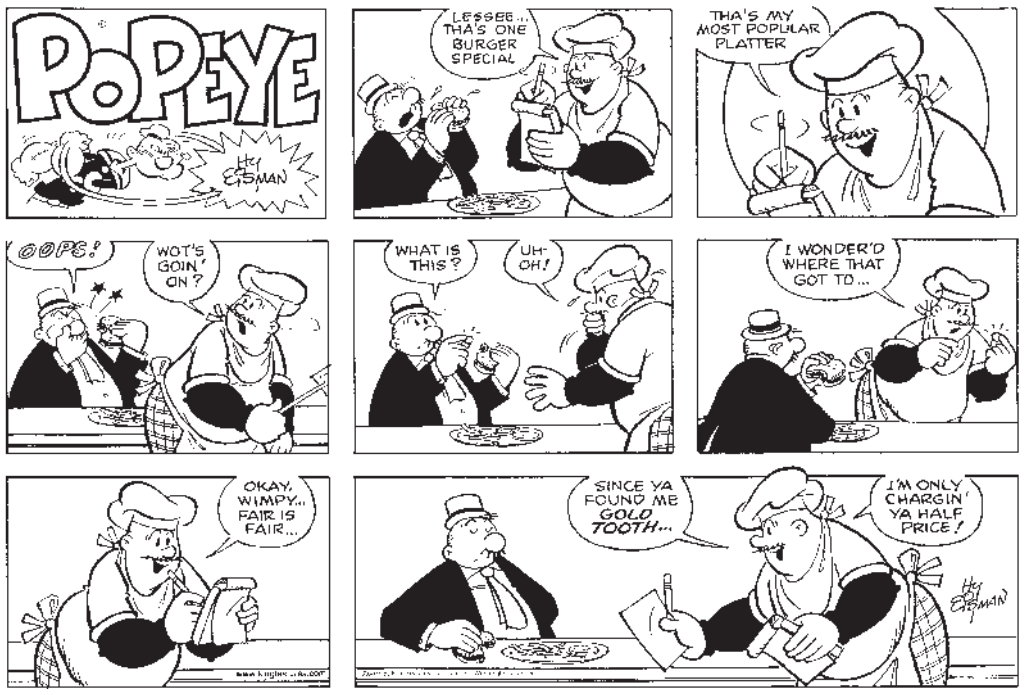
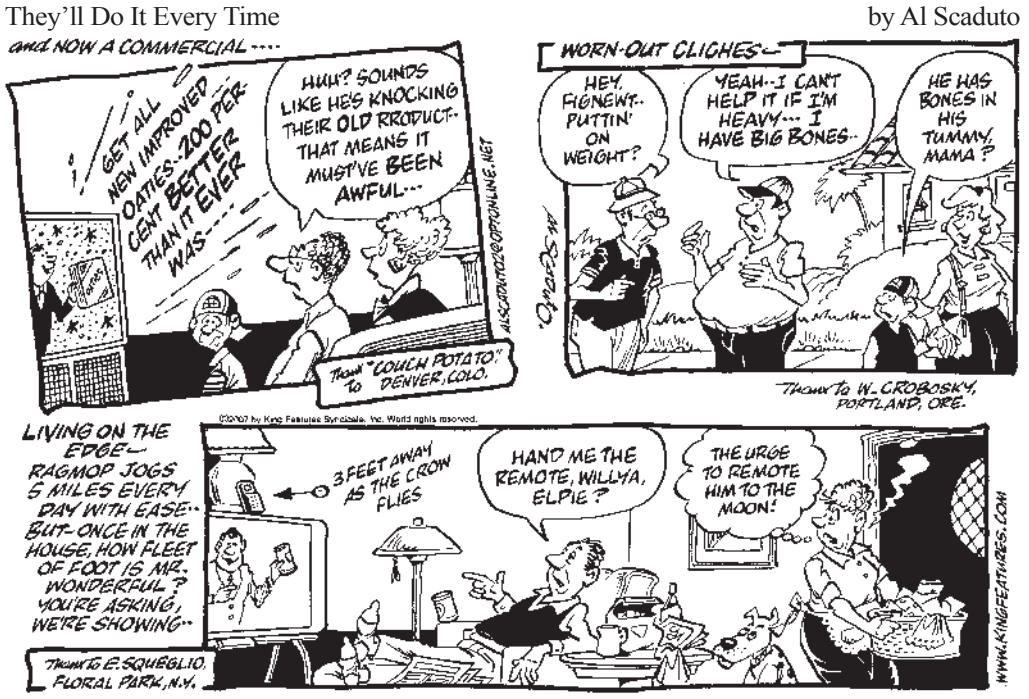


They'll Do It Every Time — by Al Scaduto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Thank "COUCH POTATO" TO DENVER, COLO.
WORN-OUT CLICHES--
HEY, FIGNEWT.. PUTTIN' ON WEIGHT?
YEAH--I CAN'T HELP IT IF I'M HEAVY--- I HAVE BIG BONES..
HE HAS BONES IN HIS TUMMY, MAMA?
Thanx To W. CROBOSKY, PORTLAND, ORE.
LIVING ON THE EDGE--
RAGMOP JOGS 5 MILES EVERY DAY WITH EASE.. BUT-ONCE IN THE HOUSE, HOW FLEET OF FOOT IS MR. WONDERFUL? YOU'RE ASKING, WE'RE SHOWING..
3 FEET AWAY AS THE CROW FLIES
HAND ME THE REMOTE, WILLYA, ELPIE?
THE URGE TO REMOTE HIM TO THE MOON!
Thank TO E. SQUEGLIO, FLORAL PARK, N.Y.
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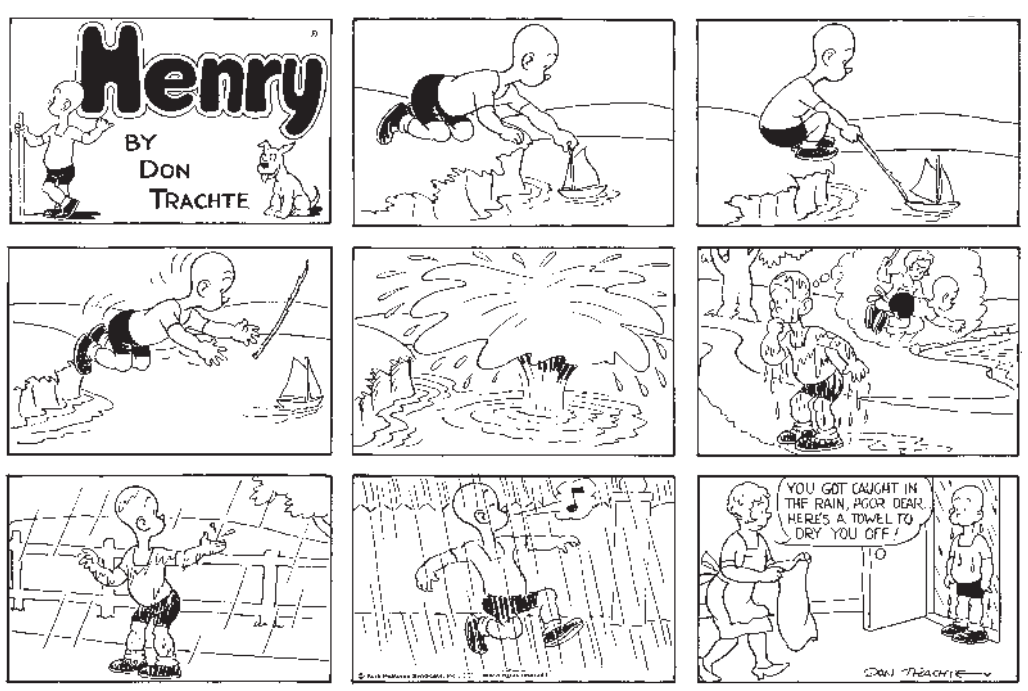

Trivia test

by Fifi Rodriguez

1. HUMAN ANATOMY: What would it mean if a person were "horripilated"?
2. CARTOONS: What's the name of the family "dog" on "The Flintstones"?
3. MUSIC: Singer Bob Dylan recorded the hit "Blowin' In The Wind" on which album?
4. LANGUAGE: A quadrennial event would occur how often?
5. GEOGRAPHY: What modern-day country exists in the land once known as Phrygia?
6. ENTERTAINERS: What were the first names of the Andrews Sisters?
7. HISTORY: What year did the famous Watergate break-in occur?
8. LITERATURE: Who is Willie Stark in the novel "All the King's Men"?
9. MOVIES: The slogan "Where were you in '62?" was used to promote what movie?
10. TELEVISION: What was name of the inn featured in the "Newhart" comedy show?

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Answers
1. He or she would have goose bumps
2. Dino
3. "Freewheelin' Bob Dylan"
4. Every four years
5. Turkey
6. Patty, LaVerne and Maxene
7. 1972
8. A populist politician
9. "American Graffiti"
10. Stratford Inn

Saturday's Answers

The Spats — by Jeff Pickering

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- All ads placed Friday before 12 noon will come out Saturday issue and anything placed thereafter will be published on Monday issue.

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ATTORNEYS FOR Plaintiff

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

ALICE B. DELEON GUERRERO, dba A & A APARTMENTS, Plaintiff, -v- **ERIC NGIRABABUL,** Defendant.	**CIVIL ACTION NO. 10-0347** **SUMMONS FOR PUBLICATION**

TO THE ABOVE-NAMED DEFENDANT:

YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED and notified to file any answer you wish to make to the Complaint, a copy which is served upon you hereby, within twenty-one (21) days after the fourth publication of this Summons, and to deliver or mail a copy of our answer to THE LAW OFFICES OF MICHAEL A. WHITE, LLC, the Plaintiff's attorneys, whose address is Post Office Box 5222, Saipan, MP 96950, as soon as practicable after filing your answer or sending it to the Clerk of Courts for filing.

Your answer should be in writing and filed with the Clerk of this Court at Susupe, Saipan. It may be prepared and signed for you by your counsel and sent to the Clerk of this Court by messenger or mail. It is not necessary for you to appear personally until further notice.

If you fail to answer in accordance with this Summons, judgment by default may be taken against you for the relief demanded in the Complaint.

By order of the above Court:

DATED, this 19th day of July, 2011:

/s/ Clerk of Court

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CROSSWORD
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32
36 FRIDAY, JANUARY 7, 2011
Sports
Rondo, Celtic on to beat Spu
31
Minor wins doubles in Australia
By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER
Thea Minor ended her campaign in the 2011 Goulburn Valley Junior Championships in Australia on a high note after capturing the doubles crown in the U18 division of the five-day tournament.
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Find today's solution in this section

Ochocinco, Haynesworth to Pats; Bush, Kolb traded

By HOWARD FENDRICH
AP PRO FOOTBALL WRITER

There goes Albert Haynesworth, heading from Mike Shanahan's Redskins to Bill Belichick's Patriots—where he'll be joined by New England's other big pickup Thursday: Chad Ochocinco.

Reggie Bush? The Saints sent him to the Dolphins. And the Kevin Kolb saga ended the way pretty much everyone expected, with a trade from the Eagles to the Cardinals.

NFL clubs made a move a minute Thursday—and those big-name deals were only the beginning.

Day 3 of the compressed, post-lockout offseason also included more contract agreements and plenty of cuts, which teams were finally allowed to start announcing at 4:01 p.m. ET. Among the players getting released were Vince Young by the Titans, Nate Clements by the 49ers, and Jake Delhomme by the Browns.

In the first dramatic example of how the new labor deal's rookie salary system will affect elite players, No. 2 overall draft pick Von Miller got $21 million guaranteed over four years from the Denver Broncos. The No. 2 pick in 2010, Detroit Lions defensive lineman Ndamukong Suh, signed a five-year deal worth $40 million guaranteed and as much as $68 million overall.

Broncos football chief John Elway tweeted, "We have agreed to terms with our 1st round pick, LB Von Miller. Can't wait to get him on the field."

The man widely regarded as the best available player in free agency, Nnamdi Asomugha, didn't pick a team yet. But another top cornerback, Johnathan Joseph, agreed to terms with the Houston Texans, according to a person with knowledge of the deal, who spoke to The Associated Press on condition of anonymity because the signing hadn't been announced.

Belichick has had success reining in outspoken, do-it-my-way players such as receiver Randy Moss, and now New England's coach gets two more guys who fit that description in defensive tackle Haynesworth and receiver Ochocinco.

All the Patriots gave up for Haynesworth was a 2013 fifth-round pick. By shipping the defensive tackle to New England, the Redskins rid themselves of a two-year distraction and fiasco of a free-agent signing—Haynesworth was guaranteed a then-record $41 million in the seven-year, $100 million contract he got in the early hours of free agency in 2009. On the same day, he infamously declared: "You're not going to remember Albert Haynesworth as a bust."

Hmmmmmm.

Haynesworth played in only 20 games for Washington, making 6 1/2 sacks, and was in constant legal trouble away from the field. Last season, he feuded with Shanahan and was suspended for the final four games for conduct detrimental to the club.

A person with knowledge of the Ochocinco deal told the AP he agreed to a new three-year contract with the Patriots. It was not known what the Bengals received in return.

In the Kolb deal, Philadelphia received cornerback Dominique Rodgers-Cromartie and a 2012 second-round draft pick from Arizona, which was in need of a starting quarterback. Kolb had lost the Eagles' No. 1 QB job to Michael Vick and wanted a chance to lead a team.

Kolb, who turns 27 next month, reportedly will get a $63 million, five-year contract with the Cardinals. Rodgers-Cromartie, who went to the Pro Bowl in 2009, will play opposite four-time Pro Bowl cornerback Asante Samuel in Philadelphia, shoring up a pass defense that struggled last season.

AP
In this Sept. 12, 2010 file photo, Washington Redskins defensive tackle Albert Haynesworth looks on before the start of an NFL football game against the Dallas Cowboys in Landover, Md.

The Dolphins finalized their trade for Bush by negotiating a new two-year contract for nearly $10 million with the running back. New Orleans gets reserve safety Jonathon Amaya in the swap, which also involves an exchange of draft picks.

"Change is never easy but I look forward to building something special in Miami and can't wait to embark on this new journey!" Bush wrote on Twitter.

New Orleans replaced Bush with free-agent running back Darren Sproles, who told the AP on Thursday night he had agreed to a four-year contract with the Saints.

In other transactions Thursday:

-Five-time Pro Bowl kicker David Akers agreed to a deal with San Francisco, leaving Philadelphia after 12 seasons. Akers told The Associated Press on Thursday that his contract with the 49ers is for three years.

■ Kansas City released longtime star guard Brian Waters, who made 149 starts in 11 seasons for the Chiefs and went to five Pro Bowls. Waters said he plans to continue playing.

■ Chicago traded tight end Greg Olsen to Carolina for an undisclosed 2012 draft choice. A first-round draft pick in 2007, Olsen has 194 catches for 1,981 yards and 20 touchdowns in his career, but Bears offensive coordinator Mike Martz prefers blocking tight ends. Olsen finished 2010 with his lowest totals in receptions (41) and yards (404) since he was a rookie.

The Bears also agreed to a five-year contract with punter Adam Podlesh, who comes to Chicago from Jacksonville to replace Brad Maynard, whose contract expired after 10 years at Soldier Field.

■ San Diego released receiver Craig Davis, cornerback Donald Strickland, linebackers LB Brandon Lang and Jyles Tucker, and tight end Kris Wilson.

■ Linebacker Clint Session left the Colts but stayed in the AFC South when he agreed to a five-year deal with the Jacksonville Jaguars worth slightly more than $29 million, with $11.5 million in guaranteed money.

■ Dallas made official nine cuts, many of them leaked previously. Gone are tackle Marc Colombo, guard Leonard Davis, receiver Roy Williams, running back Marion Barber, placekicker Kris Brown, offensive linemen Robert Brewster and Travis Bright, linebacker Kelvin Smith and receiver Troy Bergeron.

■ Buffalo agreed to a four-year contract worth about $15 million with Brad Smith, the versatile receiver-running back-kick returner who was a force in the wildcat formation with the Jets.

■ In addition to officially releasing quarterback Delhomme, Cleveland terminated the contract of linebacker Eric Alexander and waived tight end Tyson DeVree. Delhomme, 36, was signed to a two-year contract a year ago and played in only five games.

■ Atlanta agreed to a one-year contract with linebacker Mike Peterson, who started 13 games last year with the Falcons, making 79 tackles, two interceptions, two fumble recoveries and forcing one fumble.

■ Minnesota released starting safety Madieu Williams, who spent three seasons there but was largely a disappointment after signing a big-money deal to come over from Cincinnati in 2008. He was due to make $5.4 million this season.

The Vikings also released defensive tackle Jimmy Kennedy and receiver Freddie Brown.

■ The Redskins added free-agent defensive end Stephen Bowen, whose agent announced the deal on Twitter. Bowen played five seasons with the Cowboys; he had 1 1/2 sacks in nine starts last year.

■ Philadelphia put defensive end Brandon Graham (left knee) and offensive tackle Winston Justice (left knee) on the physically unable to perform list. Also, wide receiver Jeremy Maclin and cornerback Samuel were excused from training camp for personal reasons.

■ Linebacker Justin Durant is leaving Jacksonville for Detroit; receiver Rashied Davis also agreed to join the Lions after six years in Chicago.

■ New Orleans left tackle Jermon Bushrod agreed to a two-year deal to remain with the Saints. He's been a key part of Drew Brees' pass protection.

■ Daryn Colledge, the starting left guard for the Super Bowl champion Packers, agreed to a five-year deal with Arizona. Colledge started 76 games over five seasons for Green Bay.

-Linebacker and special teams standout Matt McCoy is returning to Seattle after agreeing to a one-year deal.

Trevor Immelman leads by 1 at Greenbrier Classic

WHITE SULPHUR SPRINGS, West Virginia (AP)—Trevor Immelman's best round of the year gave him a one-stroke lead in the Greebrier Classic, reinforcing the former Masters champion's belief that he can regain his top form less than two years after wrist surgery.

The South African shot a 6-under 64 Thursday to take the first-round lead by a stroke over five others.

"I hope I'm close," Immelman said. "You never know with this game. It's been a frustrating couple of years not being able to swing the way I want to swing and practice the way I want to practice. For the most part this year, I've been able to get back to working on the things I used to work on back then.

"I'm definitely seeing signs of improvement. Albeit slow progress, it's been progress."

Shooting 65s were Gary Woodland, Billy Mayfair, Derek Lamely, Webb Simpson and Australian Steven Bowditch.

The Old White TPC course underwent a makeover since Stuart Appleby shot 59 in the final round last year to beat Jeff Overton by a stroke for the title. The renovations included lengthened tee boxes and reseeded greens that are less receptive to approach shots.

The course surrendered 81 under-par rounds on the first day last year; 41 players broke par Thursday.

Immelman, who failed to advance to weekend play in the 2010 tournament, carded seven birdies and a bogey. Although erratic off the tee, his iron play was solid. He missed one green in regulation and five of his birdies came from less than 11 feet.

Immelman began having trouble with his left wrist at the end of 2008. He had surgery in October 2009 and underwent several months of rehabilitation. The closest he's come to a top-10 finish in the past three seasons is a share of 12th at the Arnold Palmer Invitational in March.

Although he's missed the cut four times in his last six tournaments, Immelman is poised to improve on his No. 108 position in FedEx Cup points. He failed to qualify for the playoffs the last two seasons.

"For the most part this year I've been working on some of those old feels and trying to get some consistency back," Immelman said. "I've seen signs of some good play and some good shots at the right time. I'm just trying to stay patient with it."

The top 125 in the FedEx standings qualify for the playoff opener at The Barclays next month. Mayfair is 113th, while former Nationwide Tour players Bowditch (128th) and Lamely (195) are among others trying to move up.

Simpson, in his fifth year on the PGA Tour, is still chasing his first career win and hopes to earn a spot in next week's Bridgestone Invitational. The top 50 in the world rankings receive exemptions. He's 53rd.

Mayfair is still looking for his first win since 1998. He earned his PGA Tour card for 2011 after winning qualifying school in December.

Mayfair's lone top 10 this year was a tie for eighth at the Zurich Classic. Earlier this month he was 9 under midway through the John Deere Classic but finished 7 under.

"It's been a disappointing year," Mayfair said. "But as we all say, one week out here can change a lot of things."

Lamely won the Puerto Rico Open last year but has missed the cut in 25 of 39 events since.

After starting with 12 straight pars, Lamely made birdies on five of his last six holes Thursday, including a chip-in on the par-3 18th.

Woodland, whose first tour win came at the Transitions Championship in March, holed his approach shot from 101 yards for eagle at No. 4 and improved to 5 under after a birdie at No. 14. He had a chance to tie for the lead but overshot the green on the par-5 17th and made bogey. He finished with a 4-footer for birdie on No. 18.

Two strokes behind Immelman were Kyle Stanley, Chris DiMarco, Canadian David Hearn and Brendon de Jonge of Zimbabwe.

The crowd favorite was the group that included Phil Mickelson, Tom Watson and Appleby. It marked the first pairing together for Watson and Mickelson.

Mickelson, who can take over the FedEx Cup points lead with a win, shot a 70 that included five birdies and five bogeys. He then left to meet up with his family for a scheduled white-water rafting trip.

"That's the game plan," he said.

Appleby bogeyed his first two holes and shot 71 while Watson, the Greenbrier's pro emeritus who skipped this week's U.S. Senior Open in Toledo, Ohio, shot 75.

"Very different golf course," Appleby said. "I was definitely the third wheel out there."

Ex-Yankees pitcher Irabu found dead

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Hideki Irabu joined the New York Yankees 14 years ago in a swell of international excitement. The quirky, flamethrowing Japanese right-hander seemed destined to become a pioneering star for American baseball's marquee franchise.

Irabu never reached those enormous expectations, and his career spiraled. On Wednesday, the 42-year-old was found dead, an apparent suicide in a home in Rancho Palos Verdes, a wealthy Los Angeles suburb.

"He was a world-class pitcher," said former major league manager Bobby Valentine, who managed Irabu in Japan in 1995. "When Nolan Ryan saw him, he said he had never seen anything like it. There were just some days when he was as good a pitcher as I had ever seen. A fabulous arm."

Los Angeles County coroner's official Ed Winter said his office is investigating Irabu's death as a suicide, revealing no additional circumstances. An autopsy will be performed Friday or Saturday.

Irabu was billed as the Japanese version of Ryan when he arrived in the United States in 1997, a hard-throwing starter with a 98-mph fastball who excelled as a strikeout specialist—an almost unfair addition to the defending World Series champions.

After an impressive debut with the Yankees that summer, he was a disappointment to the Yankees and himself during three seasons in the Bronx. Instead, he was forever tagged with a label from late Yankees owner George Steinbrenner, who called him a "fat ... toad" after Irabu failed to cover first base during an exhibition game.

Irabu finished 34-35 with a 5.15 ERA in his tenure with the Yankees, two years in Montreal and a final season in the Texas bullpen in 2002. He was a member of two Yankees teams that won the World Series, but his only postseason action was a single relief appearance in the 1999 AL championship series when Boston tagged him for 13 hits.

Irabu pitched in an American independent league and signed with a Japanese team in recent years while living with his family in Southern California. Neighbors believe Irabu had grown despondent recently because of a split with his wife.

Mary Feuerlicht said she was about to go pick up her son on Wednesday morning when a man came running down the driveway from Irabu's large two-story home, perched atop a hill with views of the harbor and downtown Los Angeles, pleading with her to call police.

Feuerlicht said she was later told by sheriff's deputies and the man who asked her for help that Irabu's wife had left him, taking their two young daughters. She hadn't seen Irabu's wife and children for two months, but said the family regularly left town for the summer.

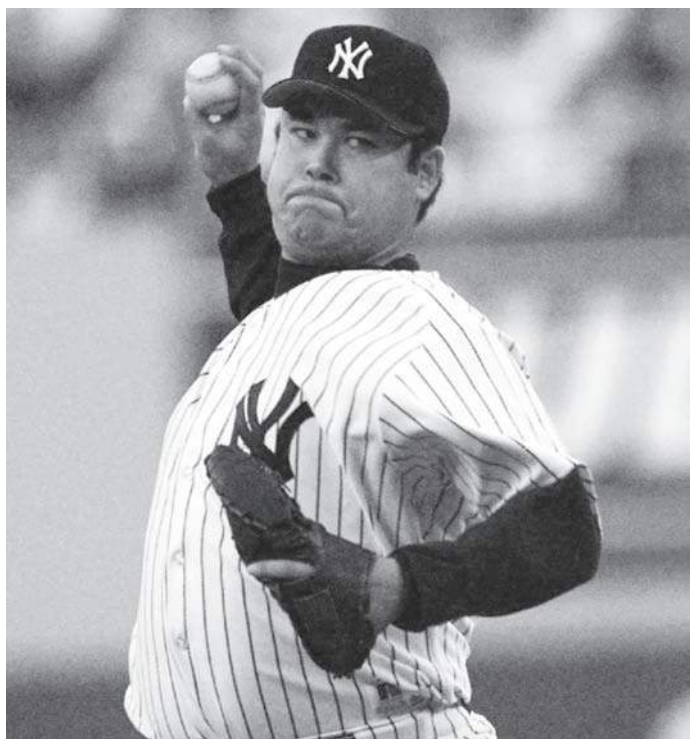
"When I saw him for the past month or so he seemed kind of down," she said. "He wasn't kind of perky like I've seen him before."

Ichiro Sakashita, who identified himself as Irabu's friend, arrived late Thursday to place huge bouquets of flowers in front of the former player's home. Sakashita said Irabu wanted to become a baseball coach and stay involved with the sport after his retirement, but ultimately decided to spend time with his family.

Sakashita said Irabu and his wife had been separated for about a month.

"He decided to go to heaven," he said. "So we must accept that."

Irabu's death is the second apparent suicide by a sports figure this week. Police say American Olympic freestyle skier Jeret "Speedy" Peterson shot himself in a Utah canyon on Monday.



AP

In this July 10, 1997 file photo, New York Yankees' Hideki Irabu throws in the first inning e against the Detroit Tigers in his Major League debut in New York.

Valentine said he got the news about Irabu on Thursday when it came across on his mobile phone.

"I got a little sick to my stomach, actually," he said.

Irabu was one of several pitchers from Japan who hoped to duplicate Hideo Nomo's trailblazing achievements in the major leagues. Irabu also was a curiosity—he taped magnets all over his body when he pitched, hoping they would bring wellness.

Although Irabu largely struggled in the majors, he left a lasting legacy. Several big stars, from Ichiro Suzuki to Hideki Matsui, followed Nomo and Irabu from Japan to the United States.

"He was one of the pioneers," Valentine said. "There was a lot riding on his shoulders."

Irabu starred in Japan for nearly a decade before the San Diego Padres purchased his contract from the Chiba Lotte Marines. But Irabu declined to join the Padres, insisting he would only play for the Yankees.

The Yankees put together a package and traded for Irabu a few months later and signed him to a four-year, $12.8 million contract.

"We are deeply saddened to learn of the passing of Hideki Irabu," the Yankees said in a statement. "Every player that wears the Pinstripes is forever a part of the Yankees family, and his death is felt throughout our organization."

Irabu pitched just eight games in the minors before making his big league debut at Yankee Stadium on July 10, 1997. The crowd was buzzing even before his first pitch, and fans on two continents watched him. T-shirts with "Typhoon Irabu" were on sale at the concession stands at Yankee Stadium and sushi was sold alongside the hot dogs and beers.

With current Yankees manager Joe Girardi as his catcher that night, Irabu retired the first six Detroit batters, striking out four of them and showing a 96 mph fastball. He fanned nine in 6 2-3 innings and got the win.

When he walked off the mound in the seventh inning, Yankees fans gave him a standing ovation. Some even bowed with both hands over their heads, and Irabu came out of the dugout for a curtain call.

That, however, was perhaps his finest moment in the majors.

"He was a work in progress. It just didn't progress I guess the way he had planned or the way some people planned," Valentine said.

Irabu posted a team-leading 16 saves—the only saves of his major league career—with Texas in 2002. He then returned to Japan for the 2003 season and enjoyed renewed success, earning a win in the All-Star game, going 13-8 and helping Hanshin win its first league title in 18 years.

Irabu made a comeback in April 2009 in the independent Golden Baseball League, going 5-3 with a 3.58 ERA for the Long Beach Armada. He then returned to Japan and was introduced that August as a member of the Kochi Fighting Dogs, saying, "I have high expectations for myself."

But Irabu also had off-the-field trouble in recent years.

In August 2008, he was arrested in Japan for allegedly assaulting a bartender after drinking 20 mugs of beer. Police said he became angered after his credit card was rejected.

In May 2010, Irabu was arrested on suspicion of driving under the influence of alcohol in Gardena, another Los Angeles suburb. Police said he was stopped after his car drifted outside of traffic lanes and he nearly collided with a parked car.

He posted $5,000 bail but it was not immediately clear whether he was criminally charged.

"I think that he was one of his own worst enemies," Valentine said.

Giants beat Phillies to welcome Beltran

PHILADELPHIA (AP)—The San Francisco Giants welcomed new signing Carlos Beltran by beating the Philadelphia Phillies 4-1 on Thursday in a clash of National League pennant contenders.

Beltran was 0 for 4 with two strikeouts in his debut with the defending World Series champions, who won two of three against the major league-leading Phillies in a rematch of last year's NL Championship Series.

San Francisco starter Tim Lincecum (9-8) threw six scoreless innings with six strikeouts, showing no negative effects from the stomach illness that forced him to push his start back two days.

Pablo Sandoval hit a solo homer for the Giants.

The Phillies had gone a club-record 45 straight games without dropping two straight. Starter Kyle Kendrick (5-5) gave up four runs in 6 1-3 innings.

Mets 10, Reds 9

In Cincinnati, New York held off reeling Cincinnati to complete its first-ever four-game sweep at the Reds.

Lucas Duda and Jason Bay each drove in three runs for New York with bases-loaded doubles, while David Wright went 3 for 5 to extend his hitting streak to seven games (15 for 33, .455) since returning from injury. He was 9 for 19 with five RBIs in the series.

Mets starter Chris Capuano (9-10) snapped a three-start losing streak, allowing eight hits in 5 1-3 innings. Jason Isringhausen earned his fourth save despite allowing a homer leading off the ninth.

Cincinnati starter Homer Bailey (5-5) set a single-game career worst by allowing nine earned runs.

Padres 4, Diamondbacks 3

In San Diego, Jesus Guzman had two RBIs and rookie Luis Martinez drove in the go-ahead run as San Diego edged Arizona.

Martinez and Orlando Hudson each had an RBI single in the sixth inning as the Padres erased a 3-2 deficit. Diamondbacks starter Daniel Hudson (10-7) contributed to the troubles with two walks and a hit batter in the inning.

Luke Gregerson (3-3), the first of four Padres relievers, retired the only two batters he faced in the sixth to escape a bases-loaded, one-out jam.

Marlins 5, Nationals 2

In Washington, Florida completed a three-game sweep of Washington, making it five straight wins.

Mike Stanton hit his 24th homer for the season. He has eight homers and 14 RBIs in 12 career games at Washington.

Brian Sanches (4-1), the second Marlins reliever, pitched 1 1-3 scoreless innings for the win. Nationals starter John Lannan (7-7) gave up four runs in 5 2-3 innings.

Brewers 4, Cubs 2

In Milwaukee, the hosts completed their first home series sweep against Chicago for six years.

Ryan Braun had three hits, including a home run, for the Brewers.

The Cubs rode a three-game win streak into Milwaukee but struggled mightily at the plate during the series, scoring just four runs over three games.

Milwaukee starter Shaun Marcum (10-3) pitched six innings to win his third straight, giving up two runs.

Randy Wells (2-4) took the loss for the Cubs, giving up all four runs.

Angels 12, Tigers 7

In Detroit, Los Angeles rookie Mark Trumbo homered and drove in a career-high five runs to lead the Angels over the Detroit Tigers.

Trumbo hit a two-run homer in the Angels' three-run second. He tripled in the fourth and doubled in the seventh. Needing just a single to complete the cycle, he grounded out leading off the ninth inning.

Los Angeles reliever Bobby Cassevah (1-0) worked 2 1-3 scoreless innings of relief for the win.

Detroit manager Jim Leyland was ejected in the third for arguing that a pitch had hit Austin Jackson, and things got hot in the fourth when Brad Penny argued with catcher Victor Martinez.

Tigers starter Penny (7-8) gave up seven runs in 3 1-3 innings.

Rangers 4, Twins 1

In Arlington, Matt Harrison worked into the eighth inning to cap his unbeaten July for AL West-leading Texas and beat Minnesota.

Harrison (9-7) allowed one run over 7 1-3 innings with one walk. He won all three of his decisions in his five starts this month.

Twins starter Scott Baker (8-6) allowed two runs over seven innings in his second start since returning from injury.

Royals 4, Red Sox 3

In Boston, Billy Butler hit a three-run homer as Kansas City edged Boston.

Royals starter Luke Hochevar (7-8) pitched seven strong innings, allowing two runs and just one walk while matching his season high for strikeouts with six. He retired 14 of the last 16 batters he faced and gave up only one extra-base hit.

Kansas City closer Joakim Soria worked the ninth for his 19th save.

Red Sox starter Josh Beckett (9-4) took his first loss in over a month, giving up four runs and three walks.

The defeat cut Boston's lead over the New York Yankees in the AL East to 2-1/2 games.

Rays 10, Athletics 8

In Oakland, Tampa Bay came from five runs down to overwhelm Oakland.

Desmond Jennings hit his first career home run and later added a two-run double in a seven-run seventh inning for the Rays.

B.J. Upton and Evan Longoria also homered. Upton, the subject of ongoing trade rumors hit his team-leading 16th homer after returning from one game out.

Tampa Bay starter Wade Davis (8-7) struggled early before settling down to retire 17 straight batters.

A's starter Brad Ziegler (3-2) allowed three runs — including a bases-loaded walk — to take the loss.

Blue Jays 8, Orioles 5

In Toronto, Edwin Encarnacion and Eric Thames hit back-to-back home runs as Toronto again relied on power to overcome Baltimore.

Encarnacion went 3 for 4 with two RBIs and scored twice for the Blue Jays, who have won 27 of 31 home games against the Orioles dating back to 2008.

Acquired from St. Louis on Wednesday, center fielder Colby Rasmus went 0 for 5 with two strikeouts in his Blue Jays debut. He was the only Toronto starter not to reach base.

Blue Jays starter Carlos Villanueva (6-2) notched his first win in over a month, allowing four runs in five innings.

Orioles starter Brad Bergesen (2-7) allowed six runs in three innings; his shortest outing of the season. Baltimore has lost eight consecutive series.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

MLB STANDINGS

AMERICAN LEAGUE

East Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Boston	64	39	.621	–
New York	61	41	.598	2 1/2
Tampa Bay	54	50	.519	10 1/2
Toronto	53	52	.505	12
Baltimore	41	60	.406	22

Central Division

Detroit	55	50	.524	–
Cleveland	52	50	.510	1 1/2
Chicago	51	52	.495	3
Minnesota	49	56	.467	6
Kansas City	44	61	.419	11

West Division

Texas	60	46	.566	–
Los Angeles	58	48	.547	2
Oakland	47	58	.448	12 1/2
Seattle	44	60	.423	15

NATIONAL LEAGUE

East Division

Philadelphia	65	39	.625	–
Atlanta	61	45	.575	5
New York	54	51	.514	11 1/2
Florida	52	53	.495	13 1/2
Washington	49	55	.471	16

Central Division

Milwaukee	57	49	.538	–
Pittsburgh	54	49	.524	1 1/2
St. Louis	55	50	.524	1 1/2
Cincinnati	50	55	.476	6 1/2
Chicago	42	63	.400	14 1/2
Houston	35	70	.333	21 1/2

West Division

San Francisco	61	44	.581	–
Arizona	57	48	.543	4
Colorado	49	56	.467	12
Los Angeles	47	57	.452	13 1/2
San Diego	46	60	.434	15 1/2

Yesterday's Games

Florida 5, Washington 2
N.Y. Mets 10, Cincinnati 9
Milwaukee 4, Chicago Cubs 2
San Diego 4, Arizona 3
San Francisco 4, Philadelphia 1
Pittsburgh 5, Atlanta 2
Houston 5, St. Louis 3
L.A. Angels 12, Detroit 7
Kansas City 4, Boston 3
Tampa Bay 10, Oakland 8
Toronto 8, Baltimore 5
Texas 4, Minnesota 1

GREENBRIER CLASSIC SCORES

WHITE SULPHUR SPRINGS, West Virginia (AP)–At The Old White Course White Sulphur Springs, West Virginia Purse: $6 million Yardage: 7,274; Par 70 (34-36)

FIRST ROUND

Trevor Immelman	31-33–64
Billy Mayfair	33-32–65
Derek Lamely	29-36–65
Webb Simpson	31-34–65
Steven Bowditch	32-33–65
Gary Woodland	31-34–65
Chris DiMarco	32-34–66
David Hearn	32-34–66
Brendon de Jonge	30-36–66
Kyle Stanley	32-34–66
Chez Reavie	32-35–67
Ben Martin	34-33–67
Jim Herman	30-37–67
Chris Baryla	33-34–67
Will Strickler	32-35–67
Ben Curtis	35-33–68
Tom Pernice, Jr.	33-35–68
Heath Slocum	33-35–68
Brandt Jobe	35-33–68
Chris Couch	32-36–68
Scott Piercy	32-36–68
Kenny Perry	32-36–68
J.P. Hayes	33-35–68
Charles Howell III	34-34–68
Blake Adams	35-34–69
Bob Estes	34-35–69
Duffy Waldorf	35-34–69
James Driscoll	30-39–69
Troy Matteson	34-35–69
Anthony Kim	33-36–69
Andre Stolz	32-37–69
Briny Baird	34-35–69
Roland Thatcher	32-37–69
Michael Letzig	35-34–69
John Merrick	33-36–69
Kent Jones	30-39–69
Chris Stroud	34-35–69
Jimmy Walker	33-36–69
Ryuji Imada	32-37–69
Andres Gonzales	36-33–69
Aron Price	34-35–69
Tommy Gainey	32-38–70
Matt Jones	35-35–70
Retief Goosen	36-34–70
Phil Mickelson	35-35–70
John Rollins	34-36–70
Joe Durant	34-36–70
Spencer Levin	34-36–70
George McNeill	34-36–70
Matt Weibring	33-37–70
Adam Hadwin	33-37–70
Cameron Tringale	35-35–70
John Senden	32-38–70
Lee Janzen	35-35–70
Rich Beem	35-35–70
Scott Stallings	34-36–70
Justin Leonard	33-37–70
Davis Love III	34-36–70
John Daly	33-37–70
Carl Pettersson	35-35–70
Nick O'Hern	35-35–70
Greg Chalmers	35-35–70
Kevin Chappell	33-37–70
Tag Ridings	35-36–71
Josh Teater	34-37–71
Chris Riley	33-38–71
Stuart Appleby	36-35–71
Michael Bradley	35-36–71
Tim Petrovic	34-37–71
Scott McCarron	35-36–71
Woody Austin	38-33–71
Tom Gillis	35-36–71
Steve Flesch	36-35–71
Nate Smith	33-38–71
Billy Horschel	33-38–71
Sunghoon Kang	35-36–71
Robert McClellan	3 5 - 3 6 –
71Jeff Quinney	36-35–71
Nathan Green	33-38–71
Cameron Beckman	35-36–71
Marc Turnesa	37-34–71
Camilo Villegas	34-37–71
Bill Haas	33-38–71
D.A. Points	36-35–71
Brian Davis	34-37–71
Vaughn Taylor	35-36–71
Andres Romero	33-38–71
Fabian Gomez	34-37–71
Fran Quinn	36-35–71
Jim Renner	33-38–71
Bio Kim	35-36–71
Lanto Griffin	38-33–71
Steve Allan	34-37–71
Justin Hicks	35-36–71
Richard S. Johnson	35-37–72
Tim Herron	36-36–72
Paul Stankowski	36-36–72
Arjun Atwal	35-37–72
Chris Kirk	35-37–72
Brian Gay	34-38–72
Ryan Palmer	37-35–72
Shaun Micheel	36-36–72
Joe Ogilvie	35-37–72
David Mathis	36-36–72
Daniel Summerhays	36-36–72
Michael Connell	37-35–72
Ricky Barnes	33-39–72
John Mallinger	33-39–72
D.J. Trahan	35-37–72
Sergio Garcia	35-37–72
Keegan Bradley	35-37–72
Scott Verplank	34-38–72
Johnson Wagner	35-37–72
Garrett Willis	34-38–72
Joseph Bramlett	36-36–72
D.J. Brigman	34-38–72
Scott Gutschewski	34-38–72
Dean Wilson	35-38–73
Marc Leishman	37-36–73
Matt Bettencourt	35-38–73
Carl Paulson	37-36–73
Zack Miller	35-38–73
Erik Compton	38-35–73
Martin Piller	35-38–73
Michael Putnam	34-39–73
Hunter Haas	36-37–73
Brett Wetterich	34-39–73
Jose Maria Olazabal	32-41–73
Rod Pampling	35-38–73
Michael Thompson	36-37–73
Drew Weaver	36-37–73
Garrett Frank	36-37–73
Frank Lickliter II	36-38–74
William McGirt	35-39–74
Jarrod Lyle	35-39–74
Scott Gordon	35-39–74
Jeff Overton	36-38–74
Bobby Gates	34-40–74
J.J. Henry	35-39–74
Matt McQuillan	35-39–74
Garth Mulroy	33-41–74
Colt Knost	37-37–74
Brad Faxon	34-41–75
Tom Watson	38-37–75
Michael Sim	37-38–75
Steve Elkington	38-37–75
Jin Jeong	36-39–75
Cameron Percy	37-38–75
Kevin Kisner	37-38–75
J.B. Holmes	35-41–76
Troy Merritt	35-41–76
Rocco Mediate	37-40–77
Jonathan Byrd	40-37–77
Shane Bertsch	40-38–78
a-Christian Brand	40-38–78
Alexandre Rocha	42-38–80

a-denotes amateur

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

CNMI

From Page 28

"Our players got better after each game. They played better game defensively and offensively. The boys finally adjusted and understood the defensive tactics coach Seki taught them during the Guam game," Angeles added.

The CNMI lost to Guam, but limited the latter to only three goals. Last year, when Guam and the CNMI met in a consolation game in the same EAFF tournament, the former demolished the latter, 22-0.

"They gave their 100 percent game in every match. Teamwork and communication were there and they were really determined to win, especially after coach Seki told them before the Macau game that we will make history," Angeles said.

The CNMI strikers made it into the history books despite their relatively young experience in international competitions and Northern Mariana Islands Football Association president Jerry Tan said this is a good sign.

"This historic win clearly shows that football in the CNMI is progressing well and steady. NMIFA is a relatively young sports organization with only six years of existence as compared to the 36 years of Guam Football Association. As a reference, it took Guam 34 years when it got its first ever international win over Mongolia in 2009," Tan said.

"Football/soccer is the most popular sports in the world in almost every country, and most of them have over 70 years of history. It is very difficult to expect our national team to be competitive with only six years of existence. It would take us one full cycle of 10 years when our 5-year-olds would have played 10 years of soccer when they reach 15 years old to be as good as other countries' players. This first international win over Macau gave us a lot of encouragement and confidence to know that our players are indeed improving and starting to be competitive with Guam, Macau, and Mongolia. Many of them will eventually become our men's national team players in a few years time," the NMIFA head added.

Angeles agreed that these youth players will be the future members of the CNMI Men's National Team and he hopes the young strikers will continue to train for more competitions off-island.

The CNMI U15 National Team is composed of Jordan Butcher, Enrico del Rosario, Ethan Dickinson, Kenneth Domingo, Gregzon Fontanilla, Joel and Mason Fruit, Dakota Hall, William Hinson II, Kennedy Izuka, Hunter Jewell, Andrew Johnson, Angelo Jones, Jehn Joyner, Jake Lee, Sean Perez, John Taisacan, and Jirech Yobech.

NOMINATED

From Page 28

(or equivalent) and have one year of active coaching certified by their member federation."

"Coaches will be at the stage in their career as a coach to begin to specialize in one of the event specific groups. The course introduces coaches to the specific planning, doing, and reviewing, aspects of coaching that are necessary to coach the throwing events successfully," OAA stated in its website.

NMA will hold a meeting today and is expected to discuss and make a final decision on the nomination, which will be closed on Aug. 8.

Sylvan Rangamar has been representing the CNMI in throwing competitions for the past several years and had won medals for the Commonwealth, while Nekaifes participated in the 2010 Micronesian Games in Palau. Both athletes are also volunteers in local competitions NMA organizers.

Meanwhile, NMA's preparations for next month's 2011 Pacific Games in New Caledonia will continue today, as Elias Rangamar holds a time trial for the three CNMI bets to the quadrennial meet.

Sprinter Rachel Abrams, long jumper Trevor Ogumoro, and middle distance runner Douglas Dillay will be representing the Commonwealth to the Pacific Games and will be at the Oleai Sports Complex track and field facility this morning for a time trial against other NMA athletes.

The Pacific Games will take place from Aug. 27 to Sept. 10 with NMA bets joining CNMI golfers and beach volleyball players in New Caledonia.

SHERWIN

From Page 28

(1-3) and Life Force (0-3) was suspended at halftime on account of rain with the former on top, 49-43.

Fong's Bakery got off to a quick start thanks to two 3-pointers that gave it an early 18-16 margin over Sherwin Williams at the end of the first quarter.

The latter, however, kept pace in the second quarter and knotted the game at 33-all at halftime.

Seven Sherwin Williams players chipped in on the action, while Jayde Duhon led Fong's Bakery with 10 points.

Sherwin Williams bit down on defense and limited Fong's Bakery to just a baker's dozen in the third quarter, allowing it to jump in front, 54-46. Joe Ada came off the bench scoring 10 points in the period to spearhead Sherwin Williams' run.

Fong's Bakery charged back at crunch time and dropped three from downtown, but Sherwin Williams held strong for the win. Ada scored eight points in the final period, including a pair of free throws that closed the game.

Ada and teammate Jun Tabora combined for 46 points, while Fong's Bakery's Jomer Diyco finished with a team-high 17.

The loss was Fong's Bakery's first in three games.

Aside from the Bud Brothers-Life Force match, the late-game pairing between Marianas Water (1-3) and Lyn's BBQ (1-3) Thursday night was also called off and will be rescheduled at a later date.

Wednesday's game between Star Water (2-2) and MBI (2-2) was also put on hold due to rain after a half of play. Star Water held a slim, 32-30, lead at the break when organizers declared the court unplayable.

In other results, C-Bracket frontrunner Fresco Saipan (6-0) defeated Mawati (1-2), 84-79, in Wednesday's opener, while Pacific Postal evened its record to 2-2 after handing A bracket leader Inchcape its second loss in six games, 67-61, in Tuesday's first match.

The Blue Haus caging continues tonight with C-Bracket's Cell Pro (1-2) taking on Jacem Printing (1-2) at 5:30pm followed by Fong's Bakery against second-ranked Joeten Superstore (3-0) in B bracket play at 8pm.

THURSDAY

Sherwin Williams 74 – Ada 26, Tabora 20, Vistal 11, Tobias 9, Garon 6, Dayrit 1, Ebuen 1.

Fong's Bakery 70 – Diyco 17, Danipog 13, Duhon 10, DL Guerrero 9, Bahillo 6, Codog 2, Tenepere 2.

Scoring by quarters: 16-18, 33-33, 54-46, 74-70.

WEDNESDAY

Pac-Postal 67 – Mi. Usi 16, Bicera 15, Me. Usi 15, Aque 6, Bautista 6, Acosta 5, Agbanlog 4.

Inchcape 61 – M. Castro 23, Miranda 16, Bugay 10, Buniag 5, Del Rosario 3, Guinto 2, Marchadesch 2, Ortega 2.

Scoring by quarters: 14-10, 32-30, 45-49, 67-61.

TUESDAY

Fresco 84 – Faisao 24, Mabini 14, Conepcion 11, Eclevia 9, E. Camacho 8, Woodson 6, Cham 6, Park 4, Hernandez 2.

Mawati 79 – Salem 22, Dela Cruz 14, Avila 10, Reyes 10, Taractac 10, Samonte 5, Carotan 4, Demapan 3, Renia 2.

Scoring by quarters: 18-20, 37-39, 61-59, 84-79.

HOPE

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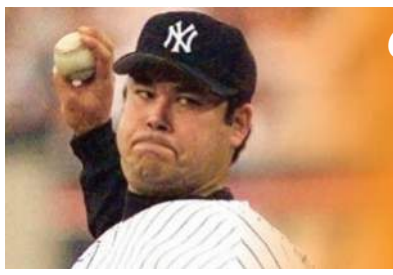
Florida) against the Western New York Flash, the home of Marta and Alex Morgan, attendance was 15,000 plus, a record for the league. Wambach's home town of Rochester, New York even declared July 20 "Abby Wambach day."

For now, women's soccer is as popular as ever. But will it last? After the 1999 World Cup final in which the USA beat China in front of a sold-out crowd of 90,000, people thought women's soccer was going to take off. The first women's professional league was created (WUSA) and stars like Mia Hamm, Kristine Lilly, and Brandi Chastain, as well as other international stars, were all on display. But, unfortunately, the league folded in 2003 and, again, the women were left with nothing to play for but their national team. And the WPS, which has been around since 2008, is looking to face a similar defeat. Attendance before the World Cup averaged 2,000. Several teams have already folded since the inception of the league, and money has become an issue. And, even with the best female athletes in the world playing week in and week out, the popularity just hasn't been there.

Now, don't get me wrong, I hope that this recent surge of interest stays. And, to be honest, I don't see why it shouldn't. Here is a league with women who are not only good at what they do, they aren't plagued with so many of the issues that harm professional sports today. There are no steroid debacles, ego issues, or money debates. Players aren't getting arrested for DUI and they aren't featured in the tabloid magazines. This is a league where the players play for the love of the game. Why wouldn't anyone not want to watch that? These women, as we've seen in the past few weeks, can play the game well, but they're also fantastic role models for girls to look up to.

So I hope you all continue to support women's soccer and it's growth, whether it's on the TV or in person. These women deserve to have a league of their own, to play the sport as professionals, to be role models for all the little girls out there who dream of becoming the next Megan Rapinoe or Abby Wambach. If you ever happen to be in Philadelphia, Boston, Buffalo, West Palm Beach, Atlanta, or New Jersey, go and see a WPS game for yourself. This team doesn't just need bandwagon fans who hop on every four years, they need fans who stay. My experience in Germany following the Women's World Cup showed me first hand how popular women's soccer can become, how good it can be. Why should it be that these women play in front of almost 50,000 people for a tournament and then go home to a crowd 50 times less? With the Olympics coming up in a year, the team will play in the qualifying tournament this January, as well as a number of other matches in preparation for London. There are also sure to be a couple of matches in the next few months. Let's continue to support this fantastic sport and these fantastic women, who truly gave us one of the most exciting sporting events ever. I know I had a summer of a lifetime and I hope I was able to give you all a little insight into the tournament and women's soccer. Thanks, and I hope to see you all in Canada, come 2015!



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CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Members, officials, and coaches of the CNMI U15 National Team pose for a group photo after winning over Macau, 2-1, during their last game in the 2011 East Asian Football Federation U15 Youth Tournament in Taipei, Taiwan, last Sunday.

CNMI strikers overachieve in Taipei

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

The CNMI U15 National Team is back on island after overachieving in the 2011 East Asian Football Federation U15 Youth Tournament held in Taipei, Taiwan.

The Commonwealth's strikers, who were winless and scoreless in their first three stints in the youth tournament and then dropped its first four games in Taipei, did not only break its scoring drought in the EAFF-sanctioned event, but also notched a historic win after stunning Macau last Sunday, 2-1.

"It was more than what we expected," said assistant coach Jershwin Angeles when asked if the team had accomplished its mission in last week's tournament.

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2 nominated for throwing course in Australia

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Nakaifes

Rangamar

Northern Marianas Athletics development coach Elias Rangamar has nominated two individuals for a throwing coaching course in Australia in September.

In a telephone interview with *Saipan Tribune* yesterday, Elias Rangamar said he submitted the names of Sylvan Rangamar and John Nekaifes for the CECS III Throws Course that will run from Sept. 16 to 29 at the IAAF Oceania Regional Development Centre in Gold Coast.

The course, according to the Oceania Athletics Association website "is designed to bring coaches together who have completed the CECS II course

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Hope popularity of women's soccer lasts

By ZOE JEWELL
SPECIAL TO THE SAIPAN TRIBUBE

Jewell is a member of the CNMI Women's National Soccer Team.

The Women's World Cup has been over for almost two weeks now, but the effects of the tournament still run high, at least for the Americans. Though they placed second in a tournament most fans thought was theirs, the U.S. team was welcomed back to their country with great appreciation.

Players have done countless media sessions—everything from *Good Morning America*, the *Today Show*, and *The Daily Show with Jon Stewart*, to *Late Show with David Letterman* and *George Lopez Tonight*, as well as slots on ESPN, CNN, FOX, and MSNBC.

Hope Solo and Alex Morgan even hit the red carpet to attend the season premier of the hit TV show *Entourage*. The Women's Professional soccer league, WPS, has been sold-out for numerous games and have broken attendance records since the team's arrival. In fact, in Abby Wambach's first game back with her team Magicjack (based in West Palm Beach,

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Sherwin Williams still undefeated in Blue Haus caging

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Fresco Saipan's Edwin Camacho is seen here pulling up for a shot during their game against Jacem Printing in the Blue Haus caging early this month at the Gualo Rai Basketball Court. Fresco played Mawati last Tuesday and won, 84-79.

By WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND
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REPORTER

Sherwin Williams remains unscathed in the 2011 Blue Haus Invitational Basketball League after slipping past Fong's Bakery, 74-70, Thursday night at the Gualo Rai Basketball Court.

The game was a continuation of the two teams' B bracket matchup from Tuesday. The nightcap between Motombo Bud Brothers

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